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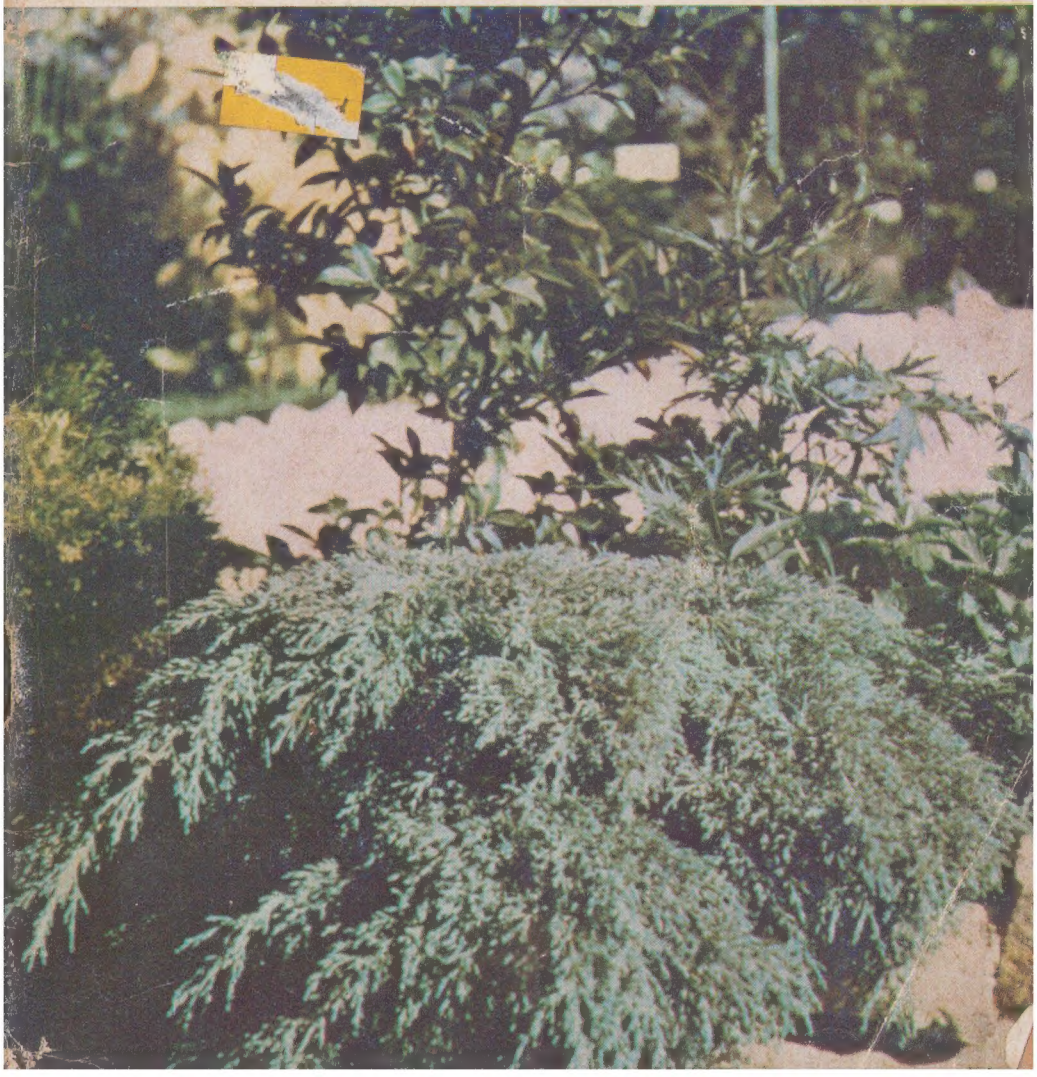

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OUR FRONT COVER . . .

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ROSE GROWING

by
Dr. A. S. Thomas
O.B.E., V.M.A., D.H.M., S.M.A.
Foundation President
National Rose Society of Australia

Weather conditions govern our outdoor activities at all times but especially in mid-winter. On average, in south-eastern Australia we get only four or five light frosts around coastal areas in June but many more than that farther inland. Temperatures are lower in July but frosts are less frequent because of wind and cloud. It is best to plant and prune Roses during cold weather because they are then nearest to being dormant. It seems best to plant some time between about 20 May and 20 August. That allows three months but early June to mid-July is the ideal time.

Similarly, pruning gives good results if done at any time in June and July. In 1976, because of going overseas, I pruned in early May and the results were very good — I am told that the winter was colder than average but no harm was done. So we need not bind ourselves to any very strict schedule. When Roses break into new growth they use up a lot of food which has been stored in the branches so it is well to prune before this happens. For this reason we should try to complete pruning by about 20 July.

New plants seem to do better if planted in warm soil rather than in the coldest time so mid-June or early August (the latter for our coldest districts)

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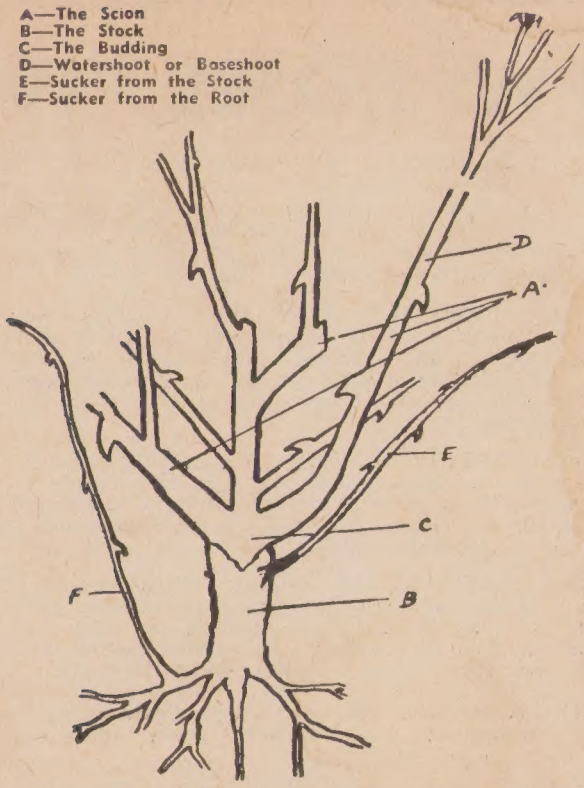

Diagram showing watershoot and sucker.

are probably better than mid-July. In most years I replace 20 to 30 plants. I dig out the old plants in April and prepare the site for the new ones. I like to get and plant new bushes about mid-June. The replacing is done for various reasons. Occasionally a plant is not doing well but most commonly I am wanting to try new cultivars or to increase my planting of several of the last couple of years which have been very good.

The planting of a Rose is like and as simple as that for any bare root plant. First examine the plant and cut off all damaged branches and roots. Shorten them too, to 25 to 30 cm. Dig a hole about 45 cm in both width and depth. Form a conical mound in the centre and make it firm by pressing with your hands. Place the lower end of the Rose stock (brier) on this and check for the level of the union of Rose and brier with that of the surrounding soil. It should be 3 to 5 cm above the soil. If it is too high or too low, adjust the height of the mound accordingly. Arrange the roots to point downwards. Then about two-thirds fill the hole with a mixture of compost and friable soil. Do not add any manure. Fill the hole with water. Because there are no clods of earth, the soil and compost will settle firmly around the roots leaving no pockets of air. Never stamp on the soil. Not only is it wholly unnecessary but it can cause bruising of the roots. Any damage to roots, irrespective of the type of brier, can cause suckers to grow from the point of damage. This seems to apply particularly to R. canina which is used for many standards. This may be so to a large

NEW ROSES, 1977

SIR HARRY PILKINGTON, H.T. (Tantau) (Melina in Germany): Clear bright red, about 30 broad petals producing excellent exhibition type form which holds well. A high proportion of stems have only one bloom which is a very desirable quality. The flowers stand up to bad conditions very well and the growth is vigorous and hardy, producing blooms on long stems very freely. "ROSE OF THE YEAR FOR 1977."

NORTHERN LIGHTS, H.T. (Cocker): Primrose yellow, sometimes flushed pink. Large double flowers of great substance and beautiful exhibition form having regularly a circular outline, evenly spaced petals that reflex well, and a fine pointed centre. The habit of growth is upright, compact, free flowering and hardy. A very welcome addition to the list of yellows. Very fragrant.

PERFUME DELIGHT, H.T. (Weeks): Winner of the A.A.R.S. Award after trials in 23 Test Gardens in U.S.A. Deep pink, double, nicely formed blooms with broad petals of excellent substance which stand up well to wet conditions. Vigorous free flowering and tough, with strong spicy fragrance that justifies its name.

PRECIOUS PLATINUM, H.T. (Dickson): Bright crimson, double long pointed blooms with petals of very good substance produced mostly singly and erect on long strong stems in profusion. Bred from Red Planet and could be described as an improvement on that variety with glossy foliage that is highly fungus resistant. Fragrant.

COALITE FLAME, H.T. (Dickson): Deep vermilion, large high pointed flowers of 60 petals. A vigorous hardy grower with strong stiff stems, free flowering and fragrant.

HARLOW, H.T. (Cocker): Pure clear salmon, large double flowers of good pointed form freely produced on a hardy plant with attractive foliage that is highly fungus resistant. Fragrant.

ORIANA, H.T. (Tantau): Bright red with silver reverse, a very distinctive and beautiful bi-colour with nice form. Very freely produced, and a most attractive and hardy garden display plant.

SYBIL HIPKIN, H.T. (Dawson): Deep bright yellow, after the style of Speks Yellow. Shapely buds produced very freely on an upright hardy plant with long stems. Merits disbudding. Fragrant.

APRICOT GEM, Floribunda (Delbard): An outstanding variety that we have no hesitation in naming "FLORIBUNDA OF THE YEAR." Rich apricot buds that develop into 2½ to 3 inch flowers of 30 petals in medium size clusters. The brilliant rich colour and appearance of the plants in bloom have attracted all visitors to our trial beds.

PUSSTA, Floribunda (Tantau) (Syn. New Daily Mail): Deep velvety red, 3 inch flowers of 25 petals in clusters. Our first impression was "just another red Floribunda," but further trials proved this to be an outstanding sort and a wonderful variety for bedding and massing. The colour keeps well, the petals have good substance, and the foliage is particularly good.

PYE COLOUR, Floribunda (Dickson): Bright light red, 2½ inch flowers of 25 petals in clusters on a healthy plant of compact habit not much higher than Marlena.

NEW ROSES 1976

LADY VERA, H.T. (R. W. Smith): Bright deep rose pink. Very double, slow opening, long lasting large flowers wtih reflexing petals. An ideal variety for exhibitors to produce a "Best Rose in Show" having usually a circular outline and pointed centre. The flowers are held very erect on longer than usual stiff stems with few thorns, and the variety has a very desirable habit of producing its blooms mostly one per stem, even on basal growths. A very desirable and dependable rose that will appeal to all rose lovers. Breeding is Royal Highness x Christian Dior. Fragrant. We are happy to release this as "Rose of the Year" for 1976. Awarded Gold Medal by Rose Society of Victoria.

GYPSY, H.T. (Weeks): Fiery scarlet red, developing a dusky shading in cooler weather. Double blooms usually one per stem, held erect on long strong stems. The colour is unfading and the blooms last well when cut. Vigorous, highly disease resistant and winner of the A.A.R.S. Award after trials in 23 test gardens. Fragrant.

OLIVE McKENZIE, H.T. (Geo. Dawson): An ever-changing combination of pink, salmon, apricot and yellow, large double flowers produced freely, making a gloriously appealing gay colour spectacle. Fragrant. Chosen by Rose Society of Victoria.

COLIN'S SALMON, H.T. (Brundrett): A clear bright salmon coloured sport from "Bel Ange" discovered by our staff member Colin. The colour is most attractive and plants have the same qualities as the parent, above average hardiness and freedom of flowering with nice long stems. Fragrant.

BLACK BEAUTY, H.T. (Delbard): Black velvety red, medium sized but beautifully formed blooms which reflex nicely, produced very freely on long stemmed hardy growth.

ELIZABETH HARKNESS, H.T. (Harkness): Creamy white, delicately flushed rosy amber. Nicely formed flowers freely produced on long stems, and at its best in the cooler weather of Spring and Autumn. Fragrant. Cert. of Merit and Trial Ground Cert. R.N.R.S.

ORIENTAL DAWN, H.T. (Keisei): Ivory to creamy yellow flushed and margined carmine pink to light red deepening with age of bloom. Large nicely formed double blooms freely produced. Cert. of Merit Rome.

BOBBY DAZZLER, Floribunda (Harkness): Sheer dependability makes this "Floribunda of the Year". The colour is peach pink in the early stages developing to light shell pink. The 2½ inch flowers dependably have very good H.T. form and are slow opening and produced in trusses on very healthy growth. Fragrant.

MAMBO, Floribunda (Tantau): Deep salmon to light vermilion. Double H.T. type blooms of 2-3 inches with good form and reflexed petals, produced in large trusses. Very healthy.

ATLANTIS, Floribunda (Harkness): An unusually beautiful variety with 3½ inch single blooms (5 petals) in clusters on a healthy free branching bush. The colour is maroon lilac with contrasting yellow stamens. Awarded Gold Medal Rome.

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degree because it is fairly usual to grow annuals under standard Roses and the digging done in planting them can damage the R. canina roots.

Having filled a hole with water, move on to plant the next Rose. If replacing a Rose which is in a bed of Roses always dig at least 45 cm deep near the other Roses so as to cut their roots which are running toward the site of the new plant. This will cut the roots of only a small part of the root system of the established plants, not enough to harm them. Years ago it was common to "root-prune" all established Roses and it was done in this way. It was said that it stimulated better root growth.

There is no hurry about filling in the upper part of each hole. It should be done with good well-fed compost and friable soil and it should not be watered.

That technique applies to all bushes whether they be H.T.'s, floribundas, miniatures or historic Roses, and to climbers which should be planted 30 to 50 cm away from their support. Finally, I like to put a circle of sticks around each plant (radius of about 30 cm) to ensure that I do not tread on it while pruning nearby Roses — it is all too easy to step backwards on to a new plant. Never plant standards against corrugated iron.

Standards or "stem" Roses need to be treated slightly differently. They should all be staked. The stake can be used to shade the trunk or stem against the heat of December to March. This heat can be injurious. To be effective, the stake should be about 5 cm in width and never of metal. If they are placed to the north-north-west of the stem they give shade at the hottest time of the day. Do not drive them in to as low a level as you may estimate they should go until after the Rose is planted. Dig the hole of the same size and depth as for a bush Rose. Then make a mound against the stake with its apex about 10 cm below soil level. Sit the plant on this and proceed as when planting a bush.

Tie the standard loosely to the stake and leave it for a few days during which it will settle to a lower level. Then drive the stake in further until its top is just below the budding of the standard and tie it tightly. Do not use durable ties, especially any which include wire, for either standards or climbers at any time of their lives because they can ring bark the plant.

We prune Roses and other plants in order to get better results. In the case of Roses this amounts to getting better blooms and in the greatest possible numbers. If we do not prune our Roses they become confused, tangled masses of dead wood and spindly growths with a few new branches of moderate vigour from time to time. Worse still, probably heps are left on such plants and this alone will allow the plants to lose vigour.

NOTICE TO ROSARIANS

If you have any special items of interest or experiences on Rose varieties and their culture which you would like to share with other Rose growers, drop a line to the Editor.

An exchange of ideas should prove of mutual advantage.

If you are not a member of a Rose Society communicate with the Secretary of the Rose Society in your State at the address set out below:

N.S.W.: Mrs. H. Moody, Box 1095, G.P.O., Sydney.
Victoria: Mrs. M. Macgregor, 40 Montclair Avenue, Glen Waverley, 3150. Phone: 560 9510.
Queensland: Hon. Sec. National Rose Society of Queensland Box 1866W, G.P.O Brisbane, Queensland 4001
W.A.: Mrs. C. Ryan, 105 Hensmon Street, South Perth, 6151. Telephone 67 6717.
New Zealand: Mr T. Watson, 11 Donald Street, Wellington 5, N.Z.
S.A.: C/o W B. Hyde, 156 Ashbrook Avenue, Trinity Gardens, S.A., 5068
Tasmania: I J. LeFevre, 656 Sandy Bay Road. Sandy Bay, 7005.

SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

June 2: Monthly meeting in Scots Church Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne, at 8 p.m. "Planting and Pruning." Experienced Council members will provide a practical evening on these two important subjects.

June 4: Public pruning demonstration at Burnley Horticultural College at 2 p.m.

June 11: Public pruning demonstration at the Alister Clark Memorial Rose Gardens, Blessington Street, St. Kilda, at 2 p.m.

July 7: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Nearly every plant has some dead wood in it at some time of the year. As it debilitates it turns yellowish and should be cut out at this stage at any time but it is easy to miss a few small sick branches. Pruning should commence with removal of all dead and sickly branches. Next, all twigs should be cut out — there is no chance of any of them producing even poor quality blooms.

There will be a few branches growing into the centre of most plants. These and all other branches will produce side shoots. Side shoots from these branches in the centre will congest the centre of the plant. This in itself does no harm but the branches rub against each other in every little breeze and damage each other's bark. This interferes with the flow of sap. Also the leaves are torn and later the blooms are damaged badly. So all of these branches in the centre of each plant should be cut out. Cut each of them at its point of origin from another branch. One is left now with a plant consisting of a number of branches resembling an umbrella half-opened and resting on its ferrule. They are spaced irregularly. In many instances two or three branches will be too close together. There is adequate space for only one. In deciding this one should try to imagine what is likely to happen to each branch in the next few months.

There will be side-shoots from each branch and these will need space. So reduce the number of branches in accordance with what one can expect. Try to keep the plants as young as possible by removing the older branches where one needs to choose. Cut out each branch as low as possible. It is surprising how much use one makes of a saw in pruning a well grown rose plant.

Rose basal shoot ("watershoot"). Diagrammatic. Showing where to cut in pruning.

The branches which remain are the basis of the plant on which one relies for blooms in the next few months. In any strong, healthy plant all these branches will be no more than two years old. These branches need to be shortened and that completes the pruning.

It has been said that one cannot kill a Rose by hard pruning and this is true of the Roses of the last quarter of a century. People who make such statements seem always to want to demonstrate some heroic wielding of their saws and secateurs. Any hard pruned plant is smaller than one which has been pruned moderately and inevitably it will give fewer blooms. These blooms, contrary to many statements, will be no bigger than those from the bigger plants. Very light pruning gives probably no more blooms than moderate pruning and is likely to give shorter stems.

Those remaining branches should be cut back to clearly defined growth eyes pointing away from the centre of the plant. The degree to which they are cut back constitutes the difference between hard and moderate pruning. Basal

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A well pruned rose bush.

shoots need to be considered separately. These are shoots (often called also "watershoots") which come from low on a branch or form the budding union. They are young, very upright (unless damaged) and are headed by a group of stems each of which carries or has carried a bloom. This group consists of several parts including a central one with usually three to five stems and two or three lateral parts with about the same number of stems. If in any doubt about what to do with a basal shoot, simply break off any heps and leave it at that. The central part will die but shoots will come from the lateral stems.

The pruning of all basal shoots is based on this behaviour. The central group dies because it has no growth eyes, so it should be removed when pruning or, for that matter, at all times of the year. The lateral groups have tiny leaflets, in pairs, on their stems. They vary from one to three pairs, usually two. Most growers cut to just above the lowest pair. I prefer to cut to above the second pair lest the shoot from the lowest pair is damaged. Damage is not uncommonly caused by birds perching on them. In the angle between each leaflet and its bloom can be almost incredibly good. Cutting to above such eyes completes the pruning of any basal shoot — it is really an extremely light trimming. Usually basal shoots will be much taller than the rest of the plant. This is the hallmark of good pruning. Bushes and stem Roses (standards) are pruned in the same way.

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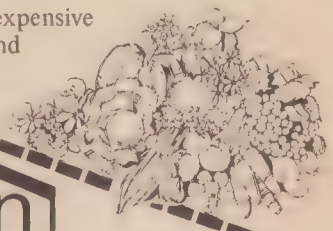

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The same principles apply to the pruning of climbing roses. The dead and sickly wood and the spindly branches must all be cut out. The long new canes should be kept but shortened a little. In most plants this will still leave a good many canes more than a few months old .These will have thrown side shoots bearing blooms and a few good canes. It is desirable to cover the supporting fence or trellis with canes about 45 cm apart, tied to it almost horizontally but not bent downwards. The more new canes and the fewer older canes the better results will be obtained. Cut back the shoots (on the older canes) which have carried blooms. Some growers shorten them while others cut them flush with the canes. Either way gives good results — new shoots will grow and produce blooms.

Trim miniatures like small shrubs to a height and width of 10 to 15 cm. There is no need to consider growth eyes. Burn all the trimmings, fallen leaves and prunings and then spray with a good fungicide such as Mancozeb. It is sold under several trade names.

Little space remains for notes on our 1976 tour. We visited several chateaux in the Loire Valley and then went to Grenoble, a fine old town on the great Route Napoléon. We took a side trip to Digne, the centre of the lavender trade before moving on to Geneva for the fine Concours de Génève where the Roses were only a little past their best — what a contrast with Bagatelle and later in England. Lausanne is not far from Geneva and the fairly new Rose garden there was at its best — very beautiful, probably better than any garden seen on our whole tour.

Looking after your Orchids

By Andrew Glew, Agricultural Officer, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne.

Flower spikes of early Cymbidium Orchid cultivars should be well advanced by now. In later varieties the flower buds will just have burst from the surrounding sheath.

Try not to handle the flower spikes too often as one clumsy action can break a spike or damage the young flower buds. Further damage can come from snails and slugs which relish the tender young buds. Sprinkle a snail and slug bait around the pots to control these pests. Also, wrap some cotton wool around the stem of the spike, just below the flower buds. Kept dry, the cotton wool will stop the snails and slugs from climbing up the stem.

Try to keep the growing flower buds dry to avoid marking. Orchids usually kept outside, are better off shifted into a sunroom or under a verandah This will protect the buds from damage by wind and rain.

The spikes will probably need training, if the plants are wanted for indoor display. A plant for display in a central position should have the spikes radiating out fairly evenly; for a corner position or one against the wall, the spikes will look better if arranged in a semi-circle at the front.

Plastic plant labels placed carefully underneath young flower spikes will give enough support until the stem is long enough for a larger stake. Insert stakes close to pseudo bulbs to avoid damaging the growing roots at the edge of the pot. Tie the spike in one place then wait a few days before putting on the next ties. Don't force the spike into position or it will break, and that means a whole year's effort will be wasted.

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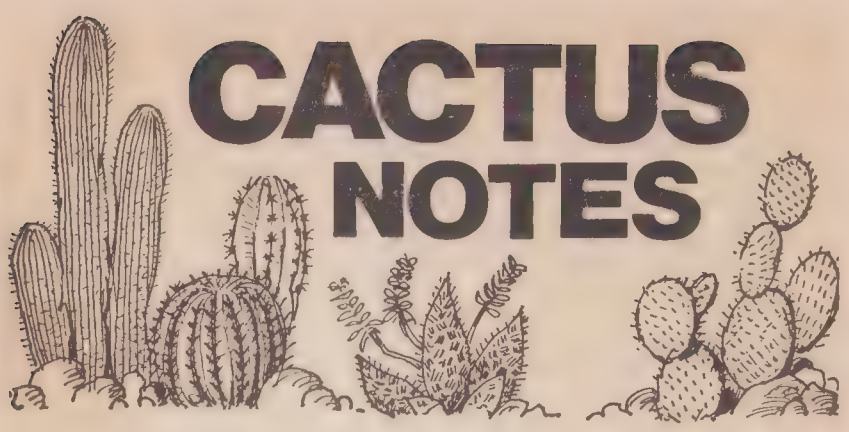

CACTUS NOTES

By J. HIMMERMAN

Common names or nicknames are used mainly by amateur gardeners or those contemplating starting a succulent collection of the plant world. Many of the names used are descriptive of the flowers, leaves, or general formation of the plant.

As there are many hundreds of plants with common names a complete list is impossible. The following common names with their botanical counterpart are a few of those most commonly used in general discussion and should prove of some value to those who wish to identify their plants botanically.

Angel Wings — Op. microdasys minima var. albata. This is the miniature variety of the species. White dots on pads.

Polka Dot—Op. microdasys minima var. albispina, white dots.

Bunny's Ears or Teddy Bear — Op. microdasys minima, pads with yellow dots.

Sacred Mushroom — Lophophora williamsii, flowers pink.

Haku Jo — Japanese **Echinopsis** hybrid also know as the woolly Echinopsis. Flowers white.

Easter Lily Cactus—All species of **Echinopsis** included here, night flowering, hardy. Flower colours mostly white, pink and mauve, a few species yellow or creamy yellow.

Xmas Cactus, Crab's Claw Cactus — Zygocactus truncatus, long been in cultivation, is popular on account of its showy zygomorphic flowers in various colours, mostly pink, salmon, red and mauve shades. The leaf-like joints are 1 in. to 2 in. long and 1 in. wide.

Peanut Cactus — Chamaecereus silvestrii has showy red flowers, is extremely hardy and usually flowers well in the rockery or as a pot subject.

Joseph's Coat — Op. monacantha variegata or **tricolor,** attractive as a pot plant; pads assume three colours, pink, yellow and green. Flowers yellow with reddish tinge. The true species is too rampant a grower and should not be allowed a space in the garden.

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Maverick — Op. tuna cristata or **monstrosa** is a miniature cactus assuming various shapes, growth is rarely over 6 in. in height. This species is ideal for a pot plant. At present not plentiful.

Rat-tail Cactus — Aporocactus flagelliformis. Makes a good pot subject, it should be grown on a shelf to allow plenty of room for the tails to hang down. Flowers are zygomorphic, nearly crimson.

Beaver Tail — Op. basilaris. Pads assume a pretty blue or purplish shading, a low and slow growing species, flowers rose-pink. An attractive and desirable species.

Bishop's Cap—Astrophytum myriostigma. Several varieties of this species are in cultivation, number of its ribs varying from 4 to 9, usually five; the 4 ribbed variety known as quadricostata, the green bodied variety as Astro. nuda. Flowers mostly yellow, two species with a reddish tinge.

Powder Puff Cactus — Usually applied to Mammillaria bocasana and similar species of which there are several. Clustering plants, flowers normally cream or yellow with pinkish shading.

Chin Cactus — All species of Gymnocalycium, species variable regarding length and number of spines. Flowers white, pink, red or yellow. Usually grown as pot plant by collectors, fairly hardy.

Painted Lady — Echeveria derenbergii. Leaves have a lovely powdery blue covering and are tipped reddish. Flowers orange-red, very showy little plant, not a fast grower. Ideal for pot plant or the rockery.

Candle Plant, Candle Cactus — Botanically Senecio articulatus is aptly named, the stems being leafless at times and prettily marked with purple markings, the plant attaining a candelabra appearance. Flowers are insignificant, whitish. This plant should be grown in a pocket of the rockery confined to a container as it has the habit of spreading fairly quickly by extra stems from the root system.

Chinese Jade or **Jade Plant** — Portulacaria afra is grown mainly for its green leafy appearance and seldom flowers in cultivation. Also known as **"Elephant Bush"** in Africa. Flowers reddish pink, minute.

Chocolate Drops, Calico Hearts — Adromischus maculatus has lovely marked leaves. As the nickname suggests, leaves are blotched or spotted with brown or chocolate markings. Hardy sun loving.

Christ Thorn, Crown of Thorns — Euphorbia splendens botanically **Euphorbia milii** is well known for its red or pink coloured bracts. The thorny stems give the plant a cactus like appearance.

Mexican Firecracker — Echeveria setoliver is a hybrid, stemless with leaves covered by soft downy hairs. The showy flowers are red and yellow.

Split Rock, Living Rock — Pleiospilos species — nelii, bolusii and simulans. The last two have yellow flowers and bloom in autumn, **Pl. nelii** has reddish flowers, blooms late autumn to early winter.

Tiger's Jaws, Cat's Jaws, Wolf's Jaws — Faucaria species tigrina, lupina and felina. All form handsome clusters or small cushions of smallish rosettes, the leaves spotted, striped or tubercled. According to the species the leaves armed with small fleshy soft teeth. Flowers of the three species mentioned have yellow flowers. **F. candida** has white flowers.

Dog's Jaws — Carruanthus caninus, somewhat similar to Faucaria has yellow flowers on longer stems.

(To be continued)

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SOME EVERGREEN TREES and SHRUBS with COLOURED FOLIAGE

by Ron Cantrill,
in "Victorian Journal of Agriculture"

There are many evergreen trees and shrubs with coloured foliage. They can be used to add interest to the garden, it is not necessary to rely on flowers for colour. Coloured foliage plants will enhance any garden. Studies in gold, bronze, grey and green can be achieved with a few well chosen trees, shrubs and perennials. A coloured tree or shrub may also be placed among green ones to emphasise its coloured foliage. The evergreens produce their colour throughout the year, while flowers may only be carried for a short while. Many, of course, have both coloured ornamental foliage and flowers.

A STUDY IN GOLD

Among the trees and shrubs with gold or yellow in their foliage is Agonis flexuosa variegata, an outstanding native tree. It is expensive

and rather difficult to obtain but is very beautiful. It grows 2-3 metres tall on a central stem with drooping lateral branches and foliage. The foliage is striped green and yellow.

Another native is the variegated form of Tristania conferta, which has broad golden yellow leaves with a margin of green. This tree usually grows to a height of 6-8 metres and spreads 4-5 metres.

The Variegated Rusty Fig from New South Wales, Ficus rubiginosa, is grown in some Victorian gardens. Its glossy leaves have broad margins of yellow. It grows to about 3 metres tall in the garden but may also be grown in containers as a house plant.

Pittosporum undulatum variegatum has light-coloured foliage with a margin of cream, and grows into a good tree 4-5 metres tall. And from across the Tasman we have a number of other New Zealand Pittosporums with variegated leaves.

The New Zealand Christmas Tree, Metrosideros excelsa variegata, is a slow-growing shrub suitable for coastal planting. Also for the coast is Griselina littoralis variegata, which has thick leathery leaves with golden variegations.

Another New Zealand tree is Hoheria populnea. There are two varieties of this tree, one with white margins to the green leaves giving it a silvery appearance. The other has gold variegations. The Hoherias are very useful small evergreen trees 3-4 metres tall. In autumn they have numerous small white flowers.

Other shrubs with golden colouring are the Variegated English Box, Gold Dust Bush, Golden Bamboo and the Variegated New Zealand Flax. Three other useful shrubs are Ligustrum lucidum tricolor, Euonymus japonicus aureus and Elaegnus pungens aurea; all have bright golden marking on their foliage.

GREY AND SILVER

A number of trees, shrubs and perennial plants have grey or silver tones in their leaves. Among them are some of our native evergreen trees. Most people are familiar with the Cootamundra Wattle, Acacia baileyana, which has attractive feathery blue-grey foliage throughout the year, and in late winter, masses of golden flowers. There is also the variety purpurea, which has distinctly purple young tips in spring.

The Mount Morgan Wattle has oval, almost rounded, silvery white leaves that stand out against the green of other native trees. This Wattle, Acacia podalyrifolia, produces large fluffy balls of golden yellow flowers in about May.

Some of our Eucalypts have silvery foliage that contrasts against a dark background. Many Gums have juvenile foliage that is silver-grey in appearance and is retained for some years before the mature leaves appear; Eucalyptus perriniana is one of these. The almost circular juvenile leaves are stemless and appear to encircle the slender branches. These juvenile leaves remain on the tree for some years; by lopping the tree it can be encouraged to retain the foliage indefinitely. The Tasmanian Blue Gum, Eucalyptus globulus, also has attractve grey juvenile folage but soon grows out of it. A number of other small Mallee Eucalypts have grey foliage.

A very attractive upright-growing tree of 3-4 metres is the South African Silver Tree, Leucadendron argenteum. The leaves are soft, silky and silver-grey. Thi stree requires a well-drained soil; it prefers a sandy or peaty soil and sometimes does well in deep mountain soils.

A Pittosporum with a silvery appearance is Pittosporum eugenoids variegatum. Its very pale, almost greyish leaves are margined with cream, giving them good colour contrast and making it a fine specimen tree.

Among the smaller shrubs are the Artemesias, with their finely divided grey, silvery or silvery-white foliage. These are hardy plants suitable for coastal planting and are drought resistant. Another plant of this kind is Teuchrium fruticans; a shrub with small grey leaves on silvery stems, and small clusters of blue flowers.

The Jerusalem Sage, Phlomis fruticosa, has wrinkled grey leaves and bright yellow hooded flowers arranged in tiers up the stems. This is a very hardy shrub about one metre high, resistant to drought and coastal conditions.

There are two other small shrubs worth mentioning for their showy foliage. One is Senecio cineraria, which has white woolly foliage and yellow daisy flowers. The other is Canary Island Pyrethrum. Chrysanthemum, ptarmicaeflorum. It has finely divided, lace-like, silvery white foliage and white daisy flowers.

PURPLE AND BRONZE

In this third group of coloured foliage plants again we find a Pittosporum. This time it is Pittosporum tenuifolium purpureum. It has small wavy-edged leaves, which become black-purple when mature. The stems are black, and so too are the night-scented flowers.

The Sheokes are useful native trees for larger gardens. Among them is Casuarina torulosa; it is a conical tree with fine weeping foliage that has a purplish-bronze sheen.

There are a number of coloured leaf forms of Cordyline australis, including bronze. It is a widely cultivated, palm-like plant, with long leaves clustered on the ends of the stems.

The New Zealand Hop Bush, Dodonaea viscosa purpurea, has rich purple leaves that deepen in autumn and winter; it grows quickly to a height of 2-3 metres.

The New Zealand Red Beech, Nothofagus fusca, is a beautiful little upright tree with small bronze leaves that turns almost plum-coloured in autumn and winter. This tree prefers cool conditions. Another small garden tree of upright habit with small bronze leaves is Myrtus bullata; it has white fluffy flowers which are followed by small red berries.

The Sacred Bamboo, Nandina domestica, has large compound leaves which are red when young and often retain red-to-bronze tones throughout the year.

Several of the Flowering Tea Trees have dark foliage. Red Damask has very dark, small sharply pointed leaves and crimson flowers.

Finally, the Purple-leaved Flax, Phormium tenax atropurpureum, is a very useful stemless plant with long, wide strap-like leaves.

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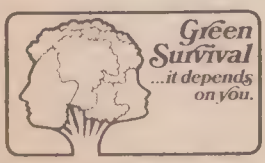

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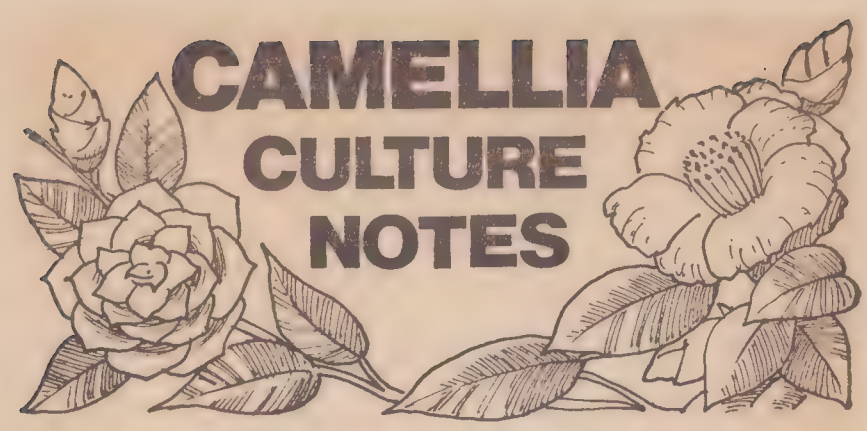

By A. W. JESSEP

Camellias growing in containers may be planted practically at any time if they are given careful attention during the next few months but August is a good average time to select and plant them although it varies to some extent upon the environmental conditions. In the north perhaps a little earlier to be well established before the hotter weather and in the south a little later when the very cold weather has passed.

For those who are not conversant with the varieties it is a good idea to make the selection when the plants are in flower and this is also a good time to plant them. After planting, if it is a young plant, remove the flowers by taking hold of it and twisting it off carefully without injuring the growth bud which is at the base of the flower. Place the flowers in a bowl of water for decoration and it gives a good idea of the lasting quality of the flower. The planting is much the same as for any other evergreen plant and it is most important to make a large relatively shallow hole — up to one foot deep — place in it some compost and light soil so that when planted it is a little less deep as when it was growing in the container.

It will settle down and Camellias being surface feeders they should not be planted any deeper. In the spring and every spring thereafter give an organic mulch but keep it a few inches from the base of the plant. Camellias require some shelter from the hot afternoon sun and liberal watering is very important. Tie the plant to a stake which should be in position before the planting takes place.

In general a good plant is one that is vigorous, produces a large number of good quality blooms with attractive foliage and habit of growth. All local and imported varieties are well tested for a year or more by our nurserymen and unless they perform up to their standard of perfection they are discarded and not put in to their catalogues. Economically a nursery can carry only a limited number of varieties so that some of the less popular ones have to be eliminated to make room for the newer popular ones.

The person selecting his plants has several special features to be taken into account, including the colour and the purpose for which they are required. A good garden Camellia is one that is a vigorous grower, produces a large number of good quality blooms, on an attractive plant.

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you in your final selections. After deciding on the variety, select only healthy plants of above 2 to 3 years old. As personal opinions differ so much it is not wise to select the best twelve garden varieties but it is easy to select twelve or more good ones. The 12 following are all of the japonica type and good growers under average garden conditions for Camellias. Magnoliaflora has bright pink semi-double flowers which are very popular in floral arrangements. Elegans, an old English variety, has produced several sports — the best are Elegans Supreme large rose pink with serrated and crimped petals — and C. M. Wilson with medium sized silvery pink flowers and confused centre. Coronation has large pure white flowers which are less damaged by the weather than most other large whites. There are several very good formal double whites but I am selecting Fimbriata an old favourite with the most beautiful fimbriated white double flowers. It is not as robust as some others and I hesitate to include it but the flowers are so beautiful that the plant is worth given special attention.

Guilio Nuccio has large dark coral rose blooms on strong stems and has largely replaced The Czar. It is a more robust grower. The late W. Henty gave us some beautiful seedlings and my choice would be Charles Henty, a large very light pink fading to white and some flowers having pink flecks. Easter Morn is an early flowerer with silvery pink with a cyclamen overcast. Apart from being a good garden grower it was very successful at several shows during the past two years. Lady Loch has been a great favourite for many years and now one of her sports — Margaret Davis — has overshadowed the parent. Mrs. D. W. Davis produces large blush pink with a silvery overcast flowers which are most attractive when used floating in a bowl. Small blooms must not be neglected but do not make the mistake of thinking they are produced on small bushes.

Two popular ones, Kitty and Tinsie are average for the size of a Camellia plant. Kitty is a formal double with white tipped pink petals and Tinsie has miniature red flowers with numerous white petaloids. If you live in a flat and can only have one plant in a container. Debutante would be very suitable with its bright pink informal flowers which are produced early and over the number I must mention William Honey which in my garden is about ten feet high, compact and covered with variegated informal flowers with the dark pink sport scattered through it. It is in a good position, has good foliage and blooms from late June until October. As I named and registered it perhaps I am a little biased towards it but it is considered more satisfactory than Extravaganza which came from America highly recommended. These are only a few of the excellent varieties available and it would not be difficult to compile

Camellias growing in containers can be planted any time.

another list of equally satisfactory ones. They are all of the japonica type and some other types will be discussed in the future.

This is a good month to get any stock that are to be used in grafting ready for operation that usually takes place from July in the north to about September in Tasmania. Some grafters without glass or a propagating heated box prefer to graft in the summer with satisfactory results.

If you are going to do any hand pollinations work out the technique you are going to use in readiness for the operation. If the plants it is desired to use do not flower at the same time collect the pollen which may be stored in the low part of the refrigerator until the seed parent is flowering. To grow a few seedlings each year adds to the interest and the result is a gamble and who does not enjoy an inexpensive gamble. Try your luck with a few seedlings.

Older gardens can be modernised and new ones laid out this time of year, but wait until the soil is in good working condition for it is a mistake to attempt to work soil when it is wet and very sticky.

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A Discussion of the Term Free Expression

By LOIS BARNETT, North Balwyn Garden Club
PHOTOGRAPHY by Paul Martin

Many people are puzzled over the term "Free Expression", even though ti means just what it says, and, I think, mainly because they wish to pin down each schedule item with rules and regulations. The whole idea of having an item of Free Expression is to give flower arrangers the chance to display their talents outside the scope of each of the named styles for which there are some guidelines. I will admit that one has to be sure when creating a Free Expression that the finished work does not, in fact, conform to any named style. How then do we set about expressing ourselves freely?

First one must keep in mind that the arrangement should still have a satisfying feeling of stability, of unity and harmony, and above all of freedom, not necessarily of the flowers, but certainly of design. Freedom to create something specifically different in concept with an eye to beauty of forms, of spaces, and if possible, of dramatic interest. There is no call just to be different, but positively a call to be creative.

Free Expression gives the arranger the opportunity to incorporate her own character: strength, gaiety, etc. — as well as to display the character of the flowers and other horticultural materials used. Many such arrangements feature non-horticultural items as well as flowers and foliage and are quite complex, but this is not necessary, and the arrangement selected here to illustrate this point is by Mrs. Margaret Wilson who, with two flowers, two branches, a two-tiered container and great skill, has created a strong statement to prove it.

Let us analyse what we see. First the two blackened branches, one of Tea Tree and the other of Casuarina, on which there are a few cones. Note the placements which enclose exciting spaces, both within their own framework of twiggy bits and also in the centre of the arrangement. Within this centre section are the two flowers, Proteas, which are used

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Mrs. Margaret Wilson has taken two branches, one of Tea Tree and the other of the Casuarina Tree, and blackened them to dramatise the two pink Protea flowers and their silver foliage. She has supported them at the base with a sheet of black glass, and higher up on two levels of her very unusual container. The top of this is rough with a dull glaze, and the lower part is highly glazed and smooth. The branches are so placed that they show a strong silhouette with plenty of depth, as you will notice the arrangement fully covers the glass square placed corner-wise, and the container is completely outside the focal area of the arrangement.
2. The addition of the Casuarina cones and the two flowers complete the design, and the full flower now appears to join the horizontal stem, and it bisects the framed space in such a manner that the spaces trapped within the twiggy area become a line of seeming movement through the centre.

with the full flower at top level, seemingly horizontal, and the bud at the base. Abstract, you may be thinking, but it takes more than this to make an Abstract, for you will remember that interest should be equated and there should be no real focal area. Here with the flowers framed so strongly, the eye, even though it will travel about the design, will certainly settle within the frame, so — no Abstract. Freestyle, too, is outside this design, for Freestyle must be radial, and here the horizontal line of the top flower and seeming stem bisects right across the centre to the twigs, and so it is not Freestyle. This type of analysis will help you to decide, when your own creative powers lead you to make a Free Expression arrangement whether you have, in fact, correctly carried out your intention.

The South Australian Judges' School

I have just returned from a very exciting three days of interstate flower arranging, where at the South Australian Judges' School, the programme featured two very talented demonstrators — Mrs. Pam Hailstone, who as well as demonstrating "Design" and Analysing Techniques, also won the first prize in the Australian Championship which was staged on the first day of the school. This was such a success with an entry from every State, that it was left staged on the second day. The other demonstrator was our Mrs. Val Sinclair, who on two different days demonstrated "Massed Work" and on the third day gave an exciting and very appreciated demonstration of "Modern Exhibition Pieces", for which she was given a standing ovation which was well deserved.

Other parts of the programme were in the form of Workshops — one for Wired Work and the other for Abstract or Modern arrangements, and they proved a great success. The standard of work in the Modern sections is always high in S.A., and I am always intrigued by the great variety of horticultural materials displayed there which I have not seen before. This time it was beautiful wood from the roots of Mangrove trees — how I would have liked to get my hands on some of that. Last time it was fasciated stems of "Salvation Jane", which goes into deliriums of contortions after it has been sprayed by the Country Roads Board, who are trying to eradicate it. Unfortunately this was not the season for it, so although some of our Victorian floral artists were going on tour after the school, they would not see any of this wayside plant.

Plant Hemerocallis (Day Lily) now to August. Thrive in any situation and soil. They will grow in hot sun or semi-shade and both dry and wet situations. They are useful for both garden decoration or cut flowers, but when they are used as cut flowers the dead flowers should be removed each day and new flowers will replace these. They are spring flowering. Named varieties are — Ajax: Orange yellow, large, well-formed flower. Flava major: Pale yellow. Fulva flora plena: Orange bronze. Luteola: Bronze yellow, fine flower.

Enrol Early For The Victorian Judges' School

Enrolment forms have been sent out already for the eighth Judges' School to be held at the Burnley Horticultural Hall, Burnley Gardens, Victoria, on August 22, 23 and 24, 1977. If you, or your Club has not received a form and wish to attend, would you please write to the Secretary, Mrs. G. Backcollar, 15 Cunningham Street, Box Hill, 3128, Victoria, and ask her to send it to you.

The programme will be very comprehensive and includes lectures and demonstrations dealing with Colour, Massed and Naturalistic, Comparisons of Moderns and Wired work, and as well there will be student participation during Analysis and Judging sessions. All attending will be required to do at least two arrangements for the show bench during the School, and this work will be judged each day.

The South Australian School had a record attendance and Victoria is expecting the same, so that is why I write at this time, so that anyone wishing to attend will not be disappointed. —*Lois Barnett.*

An Abstract arrangement from the last School. Arranger: Mrs. Margaret Wilson. Photography: Paul Martin.

PELARGONIUMS

INCLUDING THE POPULAR ZONAL

By BRIAN MONAHAN

★ **Culture Notes.**
★ **Growing Under Cover.**
★ **My Favourite Regals.**
★ **Questions and Answers.**

Culture Notes

June — the first of the winter months should see most of our plants in their dormant season with minimum of growth, perhaps this is almost a holiday season for growers — nonetheless there is a need to still take a little care, particularly if the weather proves variable. For plants in the open, frosts can be dangerous and although some frost may not be a great problem, repeated cold temperatures round freezing can effect older plants and certainly can damage or even kill new plants.

Action to be taken to save plants can be quickly summarised as follows: (1) Cover plants at night; (2) If not covered hose frost off before sunlight (direct) reaches the plants. (3) Plants which are in pots can be moved to locations under eaves, verandahs or trees.

For plants which are grown under cover a little water may still be necessary and regular checks should be made. On the other hand plants in the open may be subject to too much water from natural rainfall. If these are in the garden, drainage should be checked. Plants in pots can be either relocated or covered.

Keep all plants clean even in winter as dead leaves and other debris will draw snails, slaters and other pests and can cause fungus to grow which will eventually deface and destroy plants.

Growing Under Cover

Several queries which I have received from colder winter climates such as Canberra where heavy frosts occur from April through to October and other places which have some exposure to snowfall ask how they can successfully grow Pelargoniums.

It is certainly possible and one will find many Ivy Geraniums and Zonals (Geraniums) in these locations and may be even some of the hardier varieties of Regals. We must also remember that these plants are grown throughout the world in areas which are subject to extremely cold winters.

One solution is that frequently used in America where they simply grow new plants each year. Perhaps one reason why the Carefree Geraniums are still used. These are grown from seed and treated as annuals. This type of plant is not popular in Australia and in fact very rarely seen. Another way of over-

coming this problem is to build a small glasshouse or covered structure where cuttings can be taken and kept at reasonable temperatures during the winter without requiring a large area. The struck plants can then be placed in the garden as soon as the frosts are gone.

This now leads us into a look at growing Pelargoniums (Regals, Ivy Geraniums (Zonal) and Coloured Leaf) under cover. The type and amount of cover will vary to suit the quantity and type of plants to be grown, but we must remember that these are not really indoor plants and complete enclosure requires a little more attention. Let us look at a few of the types of covered growing equipment and what purpose they achieve. One of the simplest would be a simple frame of steel or timber covered with clear plastic sheeting. These can be effective and varied in size from a frame to cover one plant in the garden to the large type used by many nurseries. There are now several commercial types available if you do not wish to do the home handyman job. They are cheaper than a glasshouse but still effective. It is vital that they be provided with ventilation and not be fully enclosed at all times.

In areas where frosts are not severe it is not necessary to have the sides enclosed and an overhead cover will greatly assist growing. An all the year round cover which is very effective is a fibreglass covered structure set to suit the local weather conditions. This provides protection against frost and rain in winter and the direct hot summer sun. These can be constructed like a carport and preferably protected against south and west winds. If they are completely enclosed then provision for ventilation is essential.

Next we have the true "glasshouse". These can either be constructed by the handyman with time to spare or can be procured from one of several commercial glasshouse specialists. These can be constructed of various materials and of many shapes and sizes. If you are giving consideration to buying such a unit take into account shape and size to suit your requirements and available space.

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Before you invest in a glasshouse give consideration in the cost factor to materials as they will be subject to moisture which can cause rot in wood or rust in steel unless they are correctly treated. Aluminium may be a little more costly but less subject to deterioration.

The reason for any of these under cover structures is to (1) prevent temperatures getting too low; (2) remove plants from the rigours of too much rain or wind; and (3) to reduce the burning by too much direct sunlight in summer. The latter reason, of course, can in some cases require that either protective cloths or glasshouse points be used in summer.

Cleanliness in under cover growing is more critical than outside growing as diseases can be spread far more quickly. Because of the higher temperatures which can be expected in winter/spring/autumn more watering can be required. Plants should be rotated regularly to vary the light direction onto the plants. The growing season can be slightly extended and therefore fertilisers may be added earlier than outside. Another fact is that plants grow softer and care should be taken in moving them from inside to outside and a semi-protected situation for a short period is suggested to allow for acclimatisation.

My Favourite Regals

I have had several letters and calls from people interested in the lists of my favourite Regals so I will continue this listing with some comments on the varieties in my collection.

Orange Glow: This variety has very large flowers of red/orange shade, dark blotching to upper petals and white throat, flowers very well and a real eye catcher.

W. H. Heytman: Named after the late Bill Heytman who was prominent in the Pelargonium world for some years — hybridised by Mr. Len Bodey. There were some excellent blooms on show from this cultivar in 1976 and will still be popular in the future. I grew this in the garden last season and it proved a good plant for open cultivation.

All My Love: This have been around for some years now but is both hardy and attractive and can be developed into a very successful show specimen. An excellent garden plant which flowers over a long period. Flowers are deep crimson blotches on upper petals with white edgings and white to sometimes slightly blushed lower petals.

Pompeii: Always appeals to me, a compact plant with dark brown — almost black petals with white picotee edging. Introduced about ten years ago from the U.S.A.

Tunias Perfecta: Another Australian hybridisation from the late Ted Both. This has large flowers brown to orange colouring. A little more care required than some others but the effort is worthwhile.

Vin Rouge: The name is taken from, of course, Red Wine, a bright red with black markings to petals. Another very successful in both pot and garden culture.

Our list grows monthly yet there are so many I have not yet mentioned so will continue this section next month.

Questions and Answers

Should plants be given a feeding after being pruned? Yes, in most cases, provided that, as I usually recommend, time of a couple of days be allowed for the pruning wounds to heal. It is desirable to get new growth as quickly as possible after pruning and a plant in growth stage does require feed.

In the case of plants in pots feeding can be added to the new potting mix when repotting is carried out.

GEORGE JONES ASKS . . .

Have you heard?

"It is honest work, this toiling with the earth . . . and if you don't agree with the earth, well then, you can't be fit for much . . . "

That is the philosophy of Mr. Herman Jacobs, a Coloured flower-grower in Constantia Valley, some 15 miles from Cape Town. I turned it up during my quest for South African gardening information and felt that it would be of interest to you instead of the usual verse.

☆ ☆ ☆

You may recall the opening paragraph in April relative to the fires in Victoria's Western District. At about the time I was writing those lines, others were planning a practical way to express their concern for the welfare of the victims. I am referring to the splendid action of the members of Waverley Garden Club in donating plants, and money to purchase plants, for those who lost all to get their garden plots started aagin.

In terms of dollars and cents this will seem to those not involved insignificant against the great pecuniary losses suffered. But in goodwill and the lifting of spirits the value is beyond assessment.

Gestures of this kind are common in rural areas at times of disaster. It was heart-warming to see the bales of donated hay being distributed to help those who were unfortunate. That metropolitan folk should feel a similar desire to help shows that really we are all the one people no matter where and how we live.

UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDEN, OSLO: Despite its handsome City Hall, Oslo gives an impression of a large town going quietly about its affairs rather than a bustling city. The population is to the order of half a million and that is a fair gauge of its size.

Having opted out of a big city — Melbourne — to live more leisurely in smaller Geelong, Oslo measures up more to my ideal. In some respects it is to me a "museum city" relying on its historical associations to attract visitors. There are such attractions as Kon-Tiki, the Polar ship "Fram", the Viking ships, the Fortress, the Ski-jump and the fascinating Vigeland sculptures.

Although its fjord is attractive enough, it does not measure up to the magnificence of those further north. Much the same applies to its botanical garden. No one raves about it and tells you it is a "must". Nevertheless I think it would be a pity if a garden lover visiting Oslo missed seeing it. It can be reached by an easy walk from the heart of the city.

Outside the Zoological museum in the gardens last June I fonnd Paeonies and Roses in bloom. Two of the Roses were Harison's Yellow and the pink Conrad Ferdinand Meyer. The former dates back to 1830 and is more formally known as Rosa spinosissima harisonii. The latter is a variety of Rosa rugosa from 1899.

This incident will illustrate the friendliness of the Norwegians. The tropical house was closed because it was late in the afternoon when I ar-

rived. That did not deter an official from getting keys to open up for me and another visitor who had also arrived late.

The small tropical house is so filled with specimens that there is hardly room for visitors to fit in. But despite the restriction a splendid plant of the Waterlily Victoria amazonica, with its huge flat leaves that are turned up at the edge to get pride of place. It seems to me that it is indeed a very poor European botanic garden that can't run to a V. amazonica.

In the open are beds for perennials, shrubs and trees. Of the larger, well-established specimens, I noted an eye-catching Deutzia covered with pink flowers and the Fringe Tree, Chionanthus virginicus, with interesting large spidery white flowers.

I journeyed with the members of Geelong Garden Club and Ocean Grove Garden Club to the Mount Macedon Autumn Show and to visit the gardens of Cameron Lodge and Forest Glade. The colouring was as vivid as I have seen, proving once again that it is the cooler climes that must be visited for such autumn splendour.

To me Mount Macedon is "Rutherford Country". It is a little surprising that the Mount has retained its old name and is not known as Mount Rutherford. I'll explain with the aid of statistics and then you might agree with me.

For 40 years the Superintendent of the State Nursery at Macedon was J. Firth, Harold Rutherford's grandfather. For 44 years Harold's father, R. E. Rutherford, was Secretary of Mount Macedon Horticultural Society.

Harold, himself, was President of the Society for eight years and Asssitant Secretary for 13 years. His wife, Edna, was Secretary for eight years and led the Society as President in 1960. Edna also had five years as Vice-President. And now in 1977 both are still working for the Society as members of the Committee. This is the first year that a Rutherford has not been in office.

You might think me a romancer, but I wonder if all those deciduous trees on the Mount put on a special effort this year to say "thank you" to Edna and Harold.

☆ ☆ ☆

Show Secretaries are in need of every bit of publicity they can get. Apparently it has always been this way if this eighty years old letter to a newspaper editor can be taken as a guide:

"Sir, — Herewith I enclosed a Schedule of the Oakleigh and District Chrysanthemum Society's Show to be held on April 24 next at Oakleigh, a feature of which is the Society's award of six and a half guineas for 12 Chrysanthemums, cut blooms, Japanese varieties, divided as follows: first, five guineas; second, one guinea; and third, 10/6. There are also several other attractive numbers for growers of the favourite Autumn flower, one being for 12 cut blooms, 4 of which are to be dark coloured, 4 white, and 4 yellow; distinct varieties, Japanese. The Schedule is of special interest to amateurs and as we already have promises of exhibits from various parts of the Colony, our Committee are desirous that your district should not be left out of the competition for want of a timely notice. We therefore seek your favour by insertion of this letter, or a paragraph in the news columns of your paper. Thanking you in anticipation, Yours sincerely, Edward A. Swindells, Hon. Secretary."

The letter is dated March 11, 1897, and referred to a show to be held at the Oakleigh Skating Rink for which the admission was one shilling.

Several advertisements appeared in the schedule and from one we learn that Mr. Swindells was in business in Normanby Road, South Melbourne, as an agent for the Melbourne-Port Fairy steamer "Casino". Port Fairy is described as "The Coolest Summer Resort in the Colony — spend your next holiday there."

Railton Bros., 273 Swanston Street, Melbourne, had Roses for one shilling each or eight shillings per dozen, while Cremorne Nursery in Richmond offered Azaleas, Cannas, Dahlias, Bouvardias, Palms, Ferns and Chrysanthemums.

It is of interest to note that Palms and Ferns featured prominently in the competitions. Indeed, item No. 1 called for 3 Palms, distinct, and No. 3 for 3 Ferns, distinct. Dracaenas and Tree Ferns were also popular pot plants in those times.

☆ ☆ ☆

It has been said that man is unique in being the only animal interested in the past. Well, I don't know about the other animals, but we are certainly obsessed these days with preserving historical places and articles.

I am indebted to Miss Dot Swindells, who was in our 1965 Chelsea Show Tour party, for making the above letter written by her father available to me. Miss Swindells recognised its value but many others on coming across such documents among old family papers would not give them a second thought. Let us endeavour to save as much of the old papers, schedules, catalogues, prize cards, trophies, etc., by spreading the word around that they are wanted and will be cared for.

The R.H.S.V. now has library facilities at the Herbaruim where there are ideal means for the preservation of all donated material. So many items will be in the hands of people not connected with our gardening societies and clubs that it is important that we ask everyone likely to have possession of such material. Send it to the R.H.S.V., Box 5000Y, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001. Any sent to me will be examined with interest and then, as in the case of Miss Swindell's donation, be lodged wtih the R.H.S.V.

☆ ☆ ☆

On the matter of history I see that Waverley Garden Club celebrated its sixteenth birthday last month, thus getting closer to being entitled to prefix with "Ye Olde". Those of us who belong to much more mature bodies look with some envy at this teenager's vigour.

Already Waverley realises it has a history, one that should be recorded. This is a splendid idea. My Club at Geelong started life as the Geelong Horticultural Society in 1855, but what happened in nearly 100 years is all but lost to us. Perhaps a reader somewhere can shed just a little light on our past. Any glimmer would be welcome.

But back to Waverley. I am sure that all readers will join me in wishing this Club continued strength and success.

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EARLY NORTHERN DISTRICTS

Kind	Sow or Plant	Position	In Bloom	Height
AQUILEGIA	PLANTS	ANY	Sum., Aut.	2 ft.
DELPHINIUM	PLANTS	OPEN	Spr. to Aut.	4-6 ft.
ICELAND POPPY	PLANTS	OPEN	Spring	1½ ft.
RUSSELL LUPINS	PLANTS	OPEN	Late Spr.	4 ft.
NEMESIA	PLANTS	SUNNY	Spring	9-12 in.
PANSY	PLANTS	OPEN	Spring	9 in.
PRIMULA MAL.	PLANTS	COOL	Spring	9 in.
STOCK	PLANTS	SUNNY	Spring	18-36 in.
SWEET PEAS	SEED	OPEN	Late Spr.	6-8 ft.
VIOLA	PLANTS	OPEN	Spring	9 in.

MELBOURNE AND LATE S., N.E. AND HILL DISTRICTS: Defer sowings and plantings until end of Winter.

Annuals have an important part to play, because they give us brightness and colour in the garden, and flowers for indoor decoration as well, but, long before one is close enough to see the beauty of the lower growing annuals, the trees and shrubs can be admired against the sky-line. It would be a dreary world, indeed, were it not for the stately and majestic trees, which have been handed down to us from past generations. These, in conjunction with native plants and trees that have been saved by those thoughtful enough to do so, constitute a heritage of which we should be proud.

ALL VICTORIAN DISTRICTS

Kind	Sow or Plant	Between Rows	Space	Depth
ASPARAGUS	ROOTS	2 ft.	1½ ft.	6-9 in.
CHIVES	PLANTS	1 ft.	1 ft.	—
HORSERADISH	ROOTS	1½ ft.	1 ft.	6-9 in.
RHUBARB	ROOTS	3-6 ft.	2-4 ft.	—
SHALLOTS, TREE ONIONS	BULBS	1½ ft.	6-9 in.	2 in.

"Sow Onions on the shortest day, and harvest them on the longest." Old hands at the gardening game many years ago placed great faith in that adage, and, although not to be taken too literally today, there is good sense in following as near as possible the general idea.

Onions are amongst the most useful of all vegetables. They can be used when young in the form of Spring Onions, and later on they take their place in many different ways for table use, whilst those who are fond of pickled Onions will find in the home grown and home prepared article, something far superior than anything that can be purchased. The soil for Onions must be rich, fertile and well worked. It should also be as free from weeds as possible and that is why those who grow Onions on a large scale prefer to use commercial fertilisers rather than animal manure, which usually charges the soil with plenty of weed seeds.

Planting in Winter For Shady Places

By courtesy of the Waverley Garden Club Newsletter.

A very difficult part of the garden is the shady area, often dry, which is found near trees or in some corner which receives very little water, and the Clivia can be a very satisfactory solution. In the Royal Botanic Gardens and even more so at Ripponlea last spring, Clivia made a wonderful display grown under large trees. Perhaps they are best planted out in the Autumn, but, if required, planting can be done at most times provided normal care is taken.

Lily of the Valley, Convallaria, and the old-fashioned Solomon's Seal, Convallaria polygonatum, are shade loving, without direct sun or hot winds. Lily of the Valley requires rich, light soil with plenty of humus, and Solomon's Seal also needs good food. In past years, it was a favourite for ferneries, and both are planted in winter.

Dicentra, the Bleeding Heart, likes some shade and moisture, with rich soil, and shelter from hot winds. It can be planted from autumn into winter.

Eucomis, the Pineapple Lily, is a bulb which will grow in shelter but prefers some sun. It also needs a rich soil.

Hedychium, the Ginger Plant, similar in growth and divided for propagation in the same way as Cannas, likes some shade but warmth, whereas the Canna prefers a more open position. Both are gross feeders.

Hosta, the Plantain Lily, is another plant preferring definite shade and moisture, with a light rich soil. It can also be grown as a pot plant when it is easier to defeat the snails wishing to dine on it.

Shade and the variability of rain has a very real bearing on the flowering of bulbs. "Correa", who contributed some comments in our last issue on autumn flowering bulbs, has written that, in her garden, with heavy clay soil and many trees and shrubs, flowering is generally three weeks later than in Melbourne. Autumn flowering bulbs usually follow the first good rain at the end of the summer, often at the beginning of February. This year, such did not occur, though there was just enough rain to bring up the bulbs, so that many flowering times are different this season. Zephyranthes often flower in February, but this year were late. At the end of April, white Colchiums were still flowering; Haemanthus (usually early March) were in full bloom, while Cyclamen neapolitanum, which usually bloom from the New Year until the shortest day, did not bloom until March and before May were a little past their flowering peak. Sternbergias were a month late. — D.D.

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PRACTICAL GARDENING

by CURRAWANG

In most areas of Australia June is the month when growth has ground to a halt and apart from some of our bulbs, an odd shrub and the few winter vegetables, activity is at a minimum.

Those plants which do flower are extremely valuable in an otherwise colourless world.

The vegetables we are able to pick have generally a higher value and fresh vegetables from the garden are generally better than those we buy.

There is, however, no better time than winter to have a general clean-up around the garden. There should be plenty of leaves from deciduous trees and shrubs to compost or dig directly into the ground.

It is a good time to add lime to the soil to give it better balance. Continual feeding with acid fertilisers tends to build up soil acidity and lime is a valuable neutraliser. It has great value in the vegetable garden but should not be added to soil where Camellias, Azaleas or Rhododendrons are growing. There are a number of plants which are allergic to lime and it is as well to know that they may be amongst your garden plants before applying lime.

June is also a time when garden beds can be well worked by digging.

If you have sufficient room it is very desirable to rest part of your garden where there are no permanent plants. On the other hand, a so-called green crop can be grown and this is very beneficial. Plants such as Lupins, Peas, Beans and other pod plants have the ability to fix nitrogen from the air, storing it in their root systems and creating a valuable source of this important element.

When the crop has been harvested the growth can be dug directly into the soil underneath and this will create an ideal medium for nitrogen-loving crops such as Lettuce, Cabbages, Silver Beet, etc.

When our fruit trees are bare it is also a good time to spray fungicides to prevent over-wintering of fungus growths.

Bordeaux mixture is still useful on most fruit trees and also on your Roses and winter sprays will help reduce later spray programmes which take considerably more spray materials because there is much more growth to cover during the growing season. It is the old story of an ounce now is better than a pound later.

A lot of diseases and insect eggs accumulate in rubbish and a good clean-up of surplus rubbish will help to reduce the wog population and at the same time make things a little more tidy.

Snails are fairly active during the wet cold months and do a lot more damage because young seedlings are eaten before they can grow large enough to combat the snails. Growth is so slow that the fight for survival is a losing battle for your young Lettuces, Peas, etc., so do not forget to have on hand a supply of snail bait and watch out for signs of our shell-backed invaders. With the price

of seedlings at present levels it is not funny to have your new plants wiped out overnight. With the advance of winter some of the other pests such as the familiar Cabbage moths, disappear, but their eggs are waiting to hatch when warm weather returns.

I have been plagued by small black bugs which are smaller than harlequin bugs and rather faster in retreating from my thumb. They also like refuse in which to congregate but I have found they do not like carbaryl, which appears to be effective as a control.

Another small beetle about the size of the familiar ladybird but black in colour has been troublesome on Rose blooms, and carbaryl has been effective in controlling this particular pest.

It is not very pleasant to hear of new pests appearing, as the present ones keep the average gardener busy without reinforcements to the ranks.

It is a good idea to go along your paling fence and spray carbaryl along the bottom rail at the position where the palings are nailed. It is a hiding place for all sorts of marauders. There are, of course, ovicidal sprays which are specially prepared to destroy eggs and these can be useful because, after all, the ideal time to destroy the enemy is at the egg stage before any damage can be done.

White oil is a very useful and safe spray and can be used by those gardeners who dislike the more toxic sprays. It is valuable in controlling scale, some mildews, and is one of the most effective insecticides on my Lemon tree, which is affected by aphids.

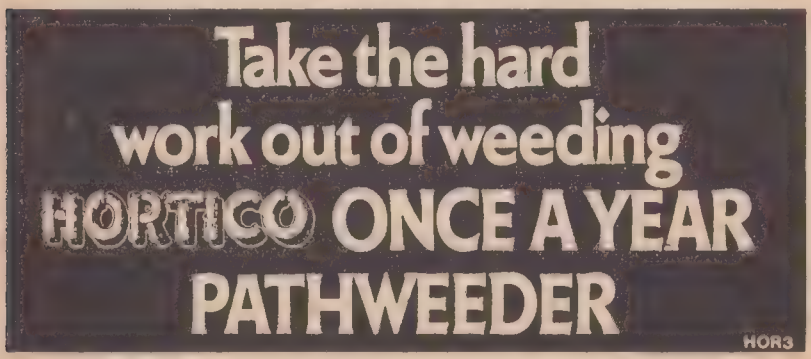
This time of the year there is no chance of leaf burn, but it should be used as directed. It will clean up sooty mould on your citrus trees and is a very good general purpose spray. I find that its oily nature helps lubricate my spray gun.

If your area is subject to frosts, then it will be necessary to protect frost-tender plants. I like to grow these under the eaves of the house, as it saves the job of covering when prospects are for a frost.

Some plants are frost tender when they are young and immature but will withstand frosts when well established.

For this reason it is not a good idea to buy these plants during the winter in cold areas. Hibiscus, Luculia, Passionfruit, Lemon trees and other tender evergreens including tropical and sub-tropical plants that will grow under normal conditions in cooler areas may not survive a cold winter unless well protected.

If you have any concrete or stonework projects around the garden, winter is the best time to tackle them. Work has slowed down in other directions and more important is the fact that growth of most plants gives you more room to work. It can be difficult to do some constructional work if the borders of your beds are overgrown with vigorous annuals, Dahlias, Roses, etc., whereas in winter they are either



removed from the beds or pruned back, giving more working space. If you damage roots of permanent plants during the dormant season not much harm can be done, whereas in the height of the growing season the story may be different.

Stone edges, brickwork, rockeries, terracing, pergodas, all give something to what could be n otherwise feature-less garden and a lot of these jobs take far less time than we anticipate.

If you have not built yourself a cold frame of some sort you will find it one of the most useful items in your back yard. If you doubt the value of a cold frame, try a small one as an experiment. A piece of clear plastic over a wooden frame will serve as a trial frame and you can raise seedlings, strike cuttings or protect frost-tender plants under the cover. Plastic or polythene cloth is so easy to obtain these days that no one should be without a small "hot box".

There are some good tubular steel framed greenhouses available these days shaped like igloos. They are easy to erect and during the winter months they are a very pleasant place in which to work.

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A Visit to a Chrysanthemum Nursery

By courtesy of the Chrysanthemum Society of Victoria.

F. & I. Baguley Pty. Ltd. are probably one of the largest wholesale florists specialising in Chrysanthemums and Carnations in the Southern Hemisphere — certainly in Australia. In addition to the 17½ acres under glass, fibreglass and polythene at Heatherton Road, Clayton, there is a further 25 acres nearby and a similar area in Queensland. The close proximity of Moorabbin airport simplifies the passing of plants and blooms between the two States.

A visit to this nursery on the 16th April by members of the Chrysanthemum Society of Victoria was an eye opener for those who went along. Mr. Frank Baguley led the party on a most expansive tour, all the while freely giving of his extensive knowledge, and answering the many questions non stop. Starting off through the growing area, we'll let Frank take up the story . . .

"We started this business about three years before the war, and with every year that passes, we learn more and improve our growing techniques. On the left here, you see our disbuds for Mother's Day. The beds are about three feet wide and 110 feet long, and the plants are planted out about the seventh of January, from cuttings which are struck the first week in December . . . We are now passing varieties such as Snowdon (a good yellow incurve), Mefo, Rival, Madame Roeger . . . mostly they are grown on first crown buds — Madame Roeger is taken on second crowns. The plants are 9 in. apart each way, and we try to get four blooms to a plant which is stopped about 6-8 in. from the ground — that is to say they are cut back to a fairly uniform height right through the beds. 4 in. wire mesh is taken the length of the beds just above the plants parallel to the ground and 6 in. mesh wire about 18 in. from the ground. The plants grow through this and no staking or tying is necessary . . .

"Stirling, Stevie, Everest (a good glistening white), unknown! . . . unknown?" "I'm sure I recognise that," says Arthur Greaves. A couple of minutes later, after much jangling of the brain box interspersed with reminiscences such as . . . "I used to grow it, but it went woggy" . . . came the pronouncement "Herbert Cuerden," and Frank stopped to place a name tag on his hitherto unknown variety.

On past Giant Yellow Fred Shoesmith (a bloom which replaces the Connie Mayhew Frank used to grow and very similar to Connie, right down to the smell), Fred Shoesmith, May Shoesmith and the imports from America, Nob Hill, Yellow Nob Hill and Gold Nob Hill, all growing in the natural black sandy loam of the area.

On past Yellow Nightingale and later plants being grown for July blooms. All of the plants are the same height, about 3 ft. 6 in., and not a bad one amongst them. "How do you get such healthy plants, Frank? What do you use for fertiliser?" The questions are now coming thick and fast. "The healthy plants are due to the fact that we use virus free mother stock and this mother stock is kept in an insect free area at all times. We do not use any of our outside plants for stock. These plants are all taken up and burnt. The only manures used are cow

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and horse manure with a chemical fertiliser. This latter is the 8/9 month Osmocote — it costs us a fortune, but it's the best."

We are now passing plants being grown for bunch cut flowers, many Princess Anne varieties including Gay Anne and Apricot Anne, Red Cap, Woking Scarlet, Peach Shoesmith, Vulcan, Blue Bell. (If you have not heard of half of these varieties, I can assure you that you are not alone.) "We trim these plants with the shears about 8 in. from the ground and then grow them the same as the disbuds — except we don't disbud," Frank continues.

When the blooms show colour, fibreglass mounted on metal frames is lifted over the plants and secured to metal posts which are placed at strategic points along the outside of the beds. The area over the path is covered with shade cloth nailed to 2 in. x 1 in. battens, and hung loosely to form a U shape. Holes are made about every two feet in the cloth to allow the water to drain through on to the path. When the blooms have been cut, we cut the plants back and get a second crop.

Meantime we are passing houses of Carnations, Azaleas, Gardenias in various stages of growth from cuttings to flowers in full bloom. The Gardenias are 10 years old. "What do you spray with, Frank?" The questions continue. "We use metasystox and Bugmaster. On very rare occasions, when the pests are obstinate, we have used phosdrin, but this is extremely dangerous, and I don't like using it. Here we are now at the mother-stock house." This is an area about 25 feet square. (I repeat, 25 feet — otherwise you may thing there is a typing error!) It is a glasshouse, hermetically sealed, with entry only via an airlock. The mother plants are in 7 in. pots on benches 3 in. off the concrete floor. "Strict hygiene is observed in this area at all times because disease can be so easily transmitted by the touch.

This stock supplies all the cuttings for the 10 or so acres of Chrysanthemums grown here, plus the acreage up the road and also cuttings for our area in Queensland. And, of course, for future mother stock. All cuttings are struck in perlite, about ¾ in. between plants and 4 in. between rows. We have facilities built into these glasshouses to steam clean the soil, spray with insecticide or to gas heat them without even entering the house. Entry to all of these glasshouses where the cuttings are struck, is via only two airlocks. Again, strict hygiene is observed. A coolroom is maintained at 34° (basically the same as a domestic frig.) and cuttings can be held for up to a month.

We employ about 60 persons and supply a good portion of the Melbourne cut flower trade in Chrissies and Carnations. For those of you interested in Carnations, they are grown in beds similar to the Chrysanthemums, the plants being 6 in. and 6 in. apart, and 3 in. wire mesh is stretched over the plants at about 1 ft., 2 ft., 3 ft. and 4 ft. Yes, they do grow that tall — taller than the Chrissies. Our old sprays were overhead sprinklers, but we are now putting in ground level plastic hose which runs down each side of the bed, with fixed sprays set at intervals to cover the whole bed without wetting the path."

In a report of this nature, justice cannot be done to the mass of knowledge which was so freely given by Mr. Baguely and those who had the opportunity to partake of it are certainly richer as a result. — Graham Sharpe.

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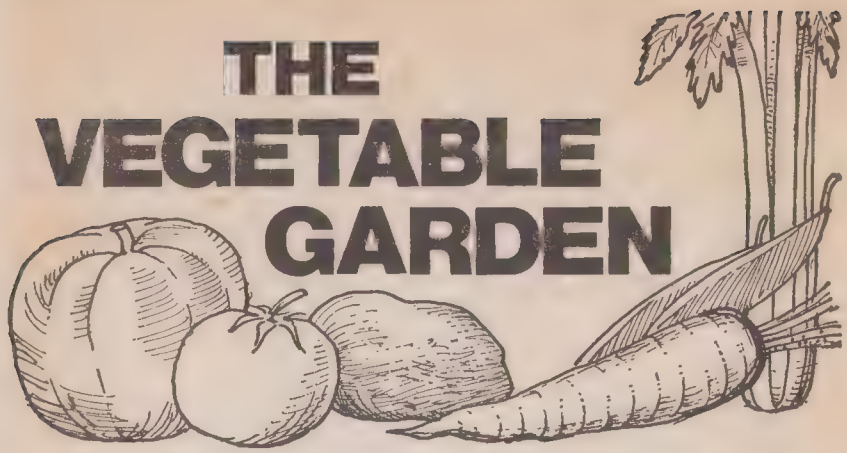
THE VEGETABLE GARDEN



There is great interest and fascination about growing vegetables for the young members of a family, and apart from the rewarding results, the exercise and open air are most beneficial to health.

Youngsters who have a small plot in the home garden become real enthusiasts, and vie with each other, or with neighbours in an endeavour to grow the champion Cabbage, Cauliflower or other favourite vegetable. It is not only a healthy hobby, but helps develop nice character, which today is something most parents are seeking, for their children.

Everyone knows the value of Onions from the culinary point of view — they are indispensable for flavouring in cooking, wonderful for salads, sandwiches and many other purposes and are therefore a "must" in your vegetable garden. Seedlings can be purchased now and put in the ground, or seeds can, in some districts only, still be sown.

Chives are worthwhile too, but they can be grown in a large pot or container, and kept near the kitchen door, so they can be easily picked as required. They have the delicate flavour of the Onion, but not the strong odour, and are used for sandwiches, stews, soups and such purposes. The tops are cut and chopped in similar manner to Parsley and if during winter they appear to die down don't discard them for they will multiply and as soon as spring arrives, make plenty of new growth.

Cabbage plants that were set out early will now be developing well, in fact, some could be ready for the table. Cabbages must be kept growing strongly by means of regular application of quick acting fertilisers between the rows, and cultivation of the surface soil. Earthing up is done by raking the soil from between the rows up to the bottom set of leaves; half the soil is raked towards one row and the other half towards the other, leaving gutters between which can be filled with animal manure if available or dressings of fertiliser worked in as mentioned before. Young plants that are large enough for transplanting can be set out into new beds and another lot of seeds sown to produce Cabbage for summer use.

Kohl Rabi provides us with Spinach above ground, and Turnip below. There are two methods of culture; each as successful. One is to sow the seeds very thinly in shallow drills where the plants are to grow. The plants are further thinned if they come up too quickly. The other way is to sow in a seed bed and transplant the seedlings like young Cabbages, to their places in the permanent beds, when they are a little more than "finger high." Be careful not to injure the long tap root. Keep the bulbous

portion exposed as they develop — the tap root is all that requires to be underground.

Use the roots when only about 5 cm in diameter; and cook them in the following manner — Firstly, peel them, then cut in slices and place in a pan with a little water, keeping lid on to keep in the steam. Boil till soft when tried with fork, then pour off any water that is left and fry the slices in butter (until a golden brown) with pepper and salt added to taste.

Growing plants of Broad Beans must be kept moving forward. They like plenty of lime in the soil. Super is the best growth-producing agent to use in cold weather. Pinch the tops out of the plants to hasten the setting of Beans. Sow another bed of seeds to keep up supplies.

Established beds of Rhubarb will benefit by receiving a dressing of fertiliser that can be dug into the soil between the rows of plants. A mulch of decomposed animal manure can then be applied with advantage. New beds of young plants can be formed to replace any that have passed their period of usefulness.

The present treatment of Asparagus beds is to remove all top growth, lightly fork in a good dressing of complete fertiliser, and lay on a thick mulch of old manure for blanching purposes. Hurry the job if it has not been done already.

Plant tubers of Jerusalem Artichokes along a fence. The flowers are like small Sunflowers and the tubers are quite a good article of diet.

Where the beds are still littered with the dead or dying remains of previous crops, rubbish should be removed to a compost heap, there to rot down and provide excellent material to be returned to the beds in due course. Of course, it would be wrong to throw tops of Tomatoes, Beans or other vegetables that showed signs of disease into the compost pit because this would only perpetuate the trouble, in time to come. Therefore, anything that is likely to have been affected by rust, wilt, mildew or any other disease, should be taken to the incinerator and promptly burned.

The next move is to put a thick layer of animal manure and a heavy sprinkling of fertiliser on the bed, which is then dug over at least a good spade's depth, in such a way that it places the manure and fertiliser well down into the soil. Don't follow the lead of those who fine down the soil as soon as ever it has been dug over. The better method is to leave the surface for the purpose of sweetening. The roughter the surface, the greater is the area exposed to the beneficial section of air, sunshine and frosts. It is soon enough to bring the surface to a fine tilth when you are about to sow seeds or plant seedlings.

June is one of the most favourable months for the laying out of a new vegetable garden, and for extending one which is not large enough for supplying the family's needs.

It is also a splendid time to alter the lay-out of beds so that the fullest use can be made of the sunshine during winter and of the amount of space available. If beds have been running in a north and south direction, they should be changed over to run from east to west, because the rows being sown or planted across the beds will then receive the maximum amount of sunshine on all sides. The improvement in growth and the regularity of cropping and ripening will be apparent in a very short time. During the winter months make sure that the taller growing varieties are used for the most southerly beds so that they will not throw long shadows on other plants, thus retarding their progress. These things may seem very unimportant, but they really play a big part in the success or failure of vegetable plots during winter, when every additional hour of sunshine makes so much difference.

The planting of the rows across the beds has a further advantage in making the job of cultivating and gathering the crops so much easier. When the rows are running length-wise, you have to stand on the beds themselves when using the hoe or cultivator, or when gathering the produce; this applies especially when the beds are made too wide, so I suggest one and

Enjoy the fun of growing and eating your own vegetables.

a quarter metres ideal, because you can work from the path at all times.

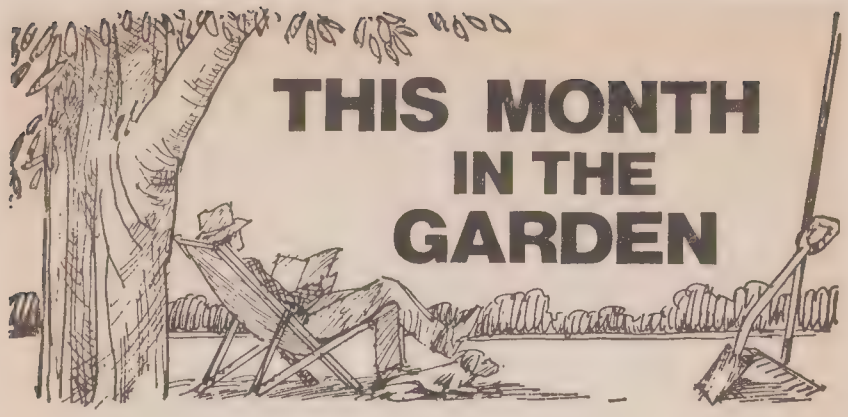
During this month you can sow in drills where they are to remain, Onion, Peas, Spinach, Silver Beet, Broad Beans, Turnip and Parsley. The smaller seeds must be sown thinly and later the seedlings still further thinned out — large seeds like Spinach and Silver Beet and Broad Beans can be sown about 15 to 25 cm apart. In seed beds for transplanting sow Cabbage, Kohl Rabi, Leek and Lettuce.

Leeks are greedy feeders and need very rich deep soil. The seeds are sown very thinly, in small sheltered beds. When the young plants are four to six inches high, transplant them to trenches or rich beds of soil, allowing 20 to 23 cm between the plants in the rows, with 45 cm separating the rows. They require plenty of water throughout the growing season, and the stems must be blanched white by drawing the soil around the plants from the sides of the trench.

In cold districts it will be too early to sow Peas, but in the warmer places it will be safe. The dwarf kinds that can be sown now in warm districts are Greenfeats, Gem (Earlicrop) and Full Pod.

Strawberries are very easy to grow and certainly repay one well if given a little cultivation and interest. They only require average garden soil, but of course produce bigger and better flavoured fruit in greater numbers when grown on light rich soil which gives them an uninterrupted root run. When grown in beds to themselves, the beds should be about four feet wide to permit one row being planted along the centre of each bed and two other rows, one on each side of the central row in such a way that the outside rows are about six inches in from the side of the bed, leaving roughly about 45 cm between the rows themselves.

The reason for making long narrow beds is to prevent having to stand on the beds to pluck the fruit, because Strawberry plants object strongly to being trodden down too firmly. If the natural soil is poor, dig in plenty of animal manure and a good helping of fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphates and potash. Potash is of untold value in many ways, particularly for improvement in flavour of the fruit.



THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN

In cold districts bare branches of trees and shrubs, and a dearth of flowers, are evidence that winter has definitely arrived. Even in the warmer areas near the coast the flower beds are gradually looking bedraggled excepting where wise gardeners have planted such hardy subects as Pansies, Primulas, Violas, Stocks, Wallflowers, Lupins, and others of similar nature which can be coaxed into flowering at this time of year.

In the cold inland places frosts and snow in some parts have already worked havoc with the gardens, and it is very evident that plant life is in the depths of its winter sleep. Gardeners accept and appreciate this state of affairs for they realise that the soil is being improved and plants are having a well-earned rest, which will enable them to put on strong growth and better flowers once the sun returns with his warming influence.

Now is an ideal time to re-manure and enrich the soil, because it is possible to dig quite deeply, and this permits all nutriment to be introduced to the lower layers of the soil, an impossibility when the plants are in active growth!

Animal manure and organic matter are mediums wherewith to keep a supply of humus in the soil, while complete fertilisers may be relied upon to introduce to the soil ingredients which are necessary for the promotion of healthy plants, beautiful flowers, and succulent vegetables. Complete fertilisers give remarkable results, because they contain the correct proportions of nitrogen, phosphates, and potash, besides other trace ingredients which, although not needed in such large quantities as the three foregoing constituents, are nevertheless of vital importance to plant life.

Now is the time to check over your Rose bushes for any evidence of mildew and black spot, for you may be sure that unless you take precautionary measures the plants will suffer; particularly so when warm weather and moist conditions encourage the spores of these diseases to begin their destructive work once again.

The best way to prevent this state of affairs is to spray the plants with Mancozeb or Zineb, Zanton or Phaltan; all of which will destroy the spores that are now resting in crevices and on the bark of the plants. Sulphate of potash dug into the soil around the plants will not only prove of immense benefit to the plants themselves, but it will also help to harden them and thus prevent their becoming a prey to the fungus diseases to such an extent as would be the case if potash were not present in the soil. Fine ashes from wood fires are the next best thing.

Shrubs which have lately completed their flowering should be pruned now, but be careful not to cut back those that bloom in springtime, because every branch that is severed will mean less flowers to do their part in the carnival of spring.

Shasta Daisy, Thalictrum, Mock Erica, Delphiniums, Rudbeckias, Perennial Phlox and all other herbaceous perennials that may need dividing can be attended to now. These herbaceous plants are really the backbone of the garden for they continue to flower when one lot of annuals has passed its period of usefulness, and before others can be grown to take their place.

Most herbaceous plants thrive best on rich deep soil with plenty of water during the hot months of the year. As time goes on they would deteriorate unless at this time of year they are lifted and divided, then replanted in some other part of the garden. If they must of necessity be planted back into the same beds as they previously occupied, the soil should be well enriched with manure and fertiliser before the replanting takes place.

The present time is one of the best of all months to plant Gladioli except, of course, in the very cold districts. These majestic and truly beautiful flowering bulbs have been improved to such an extent that they rival the Rose and Dahlias for pride of place in the hearts of gardeners. Apart from their beauty in the garden, they have won their popularity because of the amazing keeping qualities for decorative purposes, and, of course their striking beauty.

Cuttings of favourite Carnations can be taken off at this time of year and will root readily in sandy soil, providing a warm sheltered spot is chosen. The best cuttings are those about eight to ten centimeters long, which are taken with a "heel" from fairly low down on the flower stem. Trim off some of the grass from near the base of each cutting before it is inserted.

Didiscus Coeruleus, the "Blue Lace Flower" is really a native of Australia, but strangely enough, it was our American friends who popularised the variety as a garden plant. The flower is about two inches in diameter, and is composed of a number of florets arranged in lace-like design, and carried on long slender stems which permit of easy arrangement. The colour of the flowers is a pretty light blue, and the formation is daintiness itself. Seeds can be sown at the present time, and would flower in the last spring and summer months ahead.

Stokesia Cyanea, also known as Stokes Aster, or the Cornflower Aster, is another very beautiful blue-mauve flower which has spectacular blooms of fairly large size and rich colour. They are borne over an extended period during summer, and are looked upon as one of the favourite florists' flowers, for they are most decorative and good keeping. The plants are herbaceous perennials, and can be divided during the winter months, when they attain sufficient size. They bloom most generously and provide plenty of flowers for the house.

Carnations have always been great favourites, but are being grown more and more these days because such wonderful introductions have been available at reasonable cost. They are most decorative in the garden and very few people can deny that their perfume is bewitching — especially when used decoratively in the home.

For a long time people were apprehensive about growing them unless they had what they considered the right soil; that theory need not deter you, for actually, Carnations are very easy to grow. They do prefer sandy soil or one which is light, but just add to that some well decomposed stable manure and some lime. The latter can be shaken through a tin with small holes, for apart from nutriment value, lime helps to curtail attacks from rust or other fungoid diseases. If your soil is heavy, introduce some sandy soil and leaf mould into it, so that it will become more open, and then you will find you too can grow Carnations to perfection. This soil also requires some old rotted stable manure to give the plants an extra boost.

Don't cramp your plants, give each one ample room — fifty to about sixty centimeters — if you want good results. Once they are set in place firmly in the ground, give them a good watering, then wait for the flowers and the joy they bring!

Nemesia Carnival is a particularly showy and attractive spring flowering annual which generously produces flowers of bright and cheerful colours.

Although they do well in practically any garden soil, they will certainly excel when grown in rich friable land that has been well-worked and brought to the desired tilth. The flowers are shaped something like Penstemons, but the tubers are shorter and the flowers are borne upright and do not hang in the pendulous manner as the Penstemon.

They are excellent plants to grow if you wish to pick flowers for indoor decoration, for they have fairly long stems and the colours are mostly yellow, red and tango shades.

With the growing trend towards home units in Australia, I feel that window-boxes should be used more extensively for the beautification of the suburbs where gardens are limited. In Europe the famous Geranium is used to great advantage for this purpose, for they present a blaze of colour and do particularly well when kept cut back and bushy. Apart from these handy free-flowering and colourful plants, many other suitable varieties such as Primula, Linaria, Dianthus, Nemesia, Candytuft, Viola and Pansy are ideal and can be used with other plants, to make a good show.

Where your position is suitable try some plants which will hang in decorative fashion such as Lotus Peliorhyncus which is like a miniature Sturt's Pea with its attractive scarlet flower and silvery foliage.

Gladioli

There are hundreds upon hundreds of varieties of Gladioli from which to choose, and most of them are well worthy of a place in any company. For average gardens the less expensive varieties are quite as suitable as those that may be very high in price, but mostly because of the fact that these particular varieties are fairly new and stocks are limited.

Today people can have their choice of almost every colour known to flowers, whilst many of the varieties are noted also for unique and extremely beautiful colour combinations.

One of the reasons why Gladioli are popular, lies in the fact that they can be grown on almost any reasonable soil and provided they get a fair share of sunshine, the plants will not complain. They need less water than most other flowering plants in order to give of their best, provided, of course, the surface soil is kept well tilled to retain the soil moisture and prevent it evaporating into the atmosphere.

If your soil is poor, a little superphosphate dug well down into the lower layers of soil will prove of service in building up better spikes of bloom, but experience teaches that the best way is to plant the Glads in a bed that was fairly richly manured for a previous crop and not add anything further in the way of manure or fertiliser. Make a fairly deep hole where each crown or group of

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Gladioli are excellent for indoor decorations.

corms is to be planted and put a layer of gritty sand on the bottom: on this the corms are rested, then more sand is applied to cover the corms over, the rest of the hole then being filled in with the natural soil.

Many people differ regarding the depth of planting but I favour the planting of corms deeply, particularly if the soil is of a very light nature, in which case it is advisable to plant them at least 10 to 15 cm deep, but in heavier soils probably 10 cm would be quite deep enough.

It should also be remembered that the larger the corms the deeper they would need to be planted whilst the smaller yearlings might only need an inch of covering because it is a well known fact that the small bulbs increase more quickly in size if they are not buried too deeply at the outset. Quite a lot of people plant Gladioli in a shady position when they are to flower in the warmer months of the year but this seldom meets with success because the plants become tall and spindly and the colours are anything but as rich and pure as they are when planted in the open. People who are afraid that the colour will be bleached out by the hot sun can pick the spikes when only one flower is out and the whole spike will mature in water inside the house.

What flowers are more majestic and beautiful for decorative purposes than Gladioli? I believe they are admired by all!

Your Questions Answered

By SYBIL.

For those with problems in the garden, direct your questions to "Your Questions Answered," C/o "The Australian Garden Lover", Box 1944, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001.

Q.: A number of times I have seen mentioned in the 'Garden Lover" where Physostegia or Mock Erica is obtainable in rose pink and white, and deep carmine. Could you tell me where they are obtainable in white and the pink colours, as I haven't been able to find any source of them in South Australia? — W.F., Adelaide, South Australia.

A.: I suggest you contact Treeplanters Nursery, 530 Springvale Road, Springvale South, Victoria.

Q.: I recently purchased a hanging basket with several different plants in it. I know all but one, and am enclosing a leaf, hoping you can identify it. — W.E., Romsey, Victoria.

A.: The leaf is from the Maranta , or more commonly named the Prayer Plant, because of its habit of folding the leaves at night. Marantas prefer a filtered light. Keep just moist and feed regularly to keep the beautiful foliage for which the plant is known.

Q.: My Lilac has grown rather tall and straggly. It blooms well and seems healthy enough, but looks untidy. I haven't touched it in case I stop it blooming, but am now wondering if this could be done. — U.S., Seddon, Victoria.

A.: Most definitely, cut the tree back to a good shape; it will then bush out and no harm will be done to the blooms as long as the shaping is carried out when the tree is not in bloom.

Q.: What is the correct name of the Shrimp Plant — also, can it be grown by cuttings, as I have never seen the seeds. — P.S., Carnegie, Victoria.

A.: The correct name is Beloperone guttata. Yes, the cuttings grow quite easily. Take from the new shoots in late winter or early spring into a pot of sandy soil, and keep just moist. If any buds appear the cuttings will not root, so these should be pinched off.

Q.: I have a Gardenia I purchased at least three years ago and up to now it has never bloomed. It puts out new shoots each year, and that's all it does.— F.L., Footscray, Victoria.

A.: Gardenias are rather tender and need a little extra care, such

as the right position, feeding, watering, etc. An ideal position would be on a sheltered porch. Feed occasionally with Aquasol. Don't allow the shrub to get in draughts, frosts, or hot sun, and make sure the soil is kept just moist.

Q.: I have a lot of trouble growing Maidenhair Ferns — they always start dying, even the new shoots, soon after I purchase them What am I doing wrong?— M.M., Templestowe, Victoria.

A.: Maidenhair requires a moist, shady position without draughts, and as near as possible a steady temperature. Some reasons could be drying out or in a draughty position or too close to household heating.

Q.: I have noticed quite a lot of black sooty substance on my citrus trees, and also on the trees on my nature strip. What is the cause and can it be controlled?— P.L., Berwick, Victoria.

A.: The substance you mention is caused by scale insects. If you study the leaves you will notice small scales, usually on the back of the leaf. Spray with Malathion and white oil, using 1 fl. oz. of Malathion and ½ pint of white oil to 5 gallons of water. Spray on a dull day, otherwise combined with heat this spray can burn the leaves. If the trees on the nature strip are Council trees, notify your local Council.

Q.: I have tried a number of times to grow Sturt's Desert Pea but have never been successful, yet on a trip interstate they seemed to grow wild in very poor conditions. — J.F., Brighton, Victoria.

A.: The Sturt's Desert Pea seeds usually germinate freely if soaked in hot water several hours. The problem is the Victorian climate is not suitable. They require rather poor gravelly soil in full sun with fairly high temperature throughout the year. One would be very unlikely to grow them here in Victoria.

Q.: What is the cause of Fuchsias suddenly dying within a few days for no apparent reason? K.L., Ryde, N.S.W.

A.: Fuchsias are not troubled much with disease, but occasionally they are attacked by a root fungus which can be controlled by soaking the roots with a fungicide, such as Dexon, according to the maker's directions. It can be caused by bad drainage.

Caledon or Kirstenbosch? Settle for Both!

". . . the town of Caledon has a Wild Flower Reserve second in importance to Kirstenbosch. The two are really different in character since Kirstenbosch is primarily a botanical garden whereas Caledon has been laid out simply to delight the eye. On any warm day in September or October it must surely be one of the most beautiful and spectacular gardens in all the world. The massed colour effects, the scores of kinds of flowers and their many variations of form and colour are simply breathtaking. How often have I parked my car and slung a camera over my shoulder resolved to take "only a couple of new shots," to return an hour later with two or three 36-exposure spools 'in the bag'!"

— John de Smidt, a specialist in flower photography.

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Winter Care Of Bonsai

When the deciduous trees have lost all their leaves, a good general clean-up of the bonsai area is indicated. Cleanliness will help to maintain the trees in a healthy condition better able to resist pests and diseases. Gather up all fallen leaves and sweep down tables and benches; look under the pots, and check that drainholes are not blocked by soil or earthworm casts. Slaters will hide here too. Surface moss which has grown thick and long will stop good aeration of the soil; thin it out and put it aside to dry. When completely dry, it can be sieved and kept for use again in the spring. In this state, it will retain its viability for a long time.

Hardy evergreens and deciduous trees are best left right out in the open here in Melbourne. Only in districts where severe frosts occur is it necessary to give overhead protection. Prolonged rain will do no harm provided drainage is good. Wind damage is usually caused by trees being blown over, but, if trees are firmly wired into the pot when planted, and tall pots are tied to the bench, they will be safe. Too much shelter causes weak and spindly growth, so for strong, healthy trees, leave them exposed to the elements.

Although this month is the beginning of winter, and many trees and shrubs are having a dormant period, there are others which will flower and give some colour during the cold months. One of the most popular for bonsai is Prunus mume, the Flowering Apricot. The small pink or white flowers come in the middle of winter before the leaves. Prunus mume is a strong grower, and should be fertilised regularly from September until February for a good display of flowers. The flower buds are well formed by autumn and can be seen before the leaves fall. Like other flowering trees grown as bonsai. Prunus mume do best if re-potted every year. Do this as soon as the flowers fade. They come into leaf very quickly in early spring.

An Idea for Bottom of the Pot Drainage

Browsing through the back numbers of "Bonsai", the B.C.I. magazine, and reprinted from "News and Views, Am. Hort. Soc.", this intrigued me, and I will try it out this year, perhaps in some of my larger pots.

"Instead of using shards or pebbles in the bottom of the flower pots, Mrs. Anuta Lynch uses balls of nylon stocking to provide perfect drainage while keeping soil from sifting through the hole. She reports it never shifts or plugs up the drainage hole, and lasts for years. In one instance, a re-potting after ten years found the nylon still intact."

Here are her instructions: "Roll a wad of nylon stocking into a ball slightly larger than the dameter of the hole; then stuff it firmly into the hole. A large pin through the knot across the bottom will hold it in place after the pot is filled.

"The nylon ball is equally effective in clay, plastic or ceramic pots. In pots where the drainage holes are at the sides, cover the entire bottom of the pot with nylon, extending it up the sides sufficiently to cover all holes. Sift the soil into the centre of the pot first, then out to the edges to hold the nylon in place. For larger pots, spaghnum moss wrapped in the nylon ball will create volume without an excess of nylon." — **Peggy Kent, Fellows Group, Indoor Plant, Orchid and Bonsai Section.**

Directory of Shows

(Announcements under this heading cost 8c. per word)

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY, monthly meetings third Friday, Feb. to Dec., Theatrette, Camberwell Town Hall. All welcome.

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LEONGATHA DAFFODIL AND FLORAL FESTIVAL, August 31st, September 1st and 2nd. Secretary Mrs. L. Campbell, 43 Bent Street, Leongatha, 3953.

Shows to Come

1977

July

23: Australian Geranium Society, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Roseville.

August

13, 14: R.H.S.V. Fellows' Group & A.C.R. Society Camellia Show, St. John's, Toorak.

23, 24: City of Warrnambool Horticultural Society Spring Show.

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27: Mooroopna & District Garden Club Flower Show.

31: Leongatha Daffodil & Floral Festival.

September

3: Box Hill Horticultural Society, Daffodil and Camellia Show.

8: Kyneton, Victoria, Daffodil Show.

10: Red Hill Horticultural Society Spring Show.

10: Daffodil Show, Bendigo Horticultural Society.

10, 11, 12: Society for Growing Australian Plants, Vic. Region, Annual Wildflower-Nature Show, Caulfield Arts Centre.

11, 12, 13: Daffodil Spectacular, Yallourn, Kernot Hall.

17, 18: R.H.S.V. "Fellows' Group" Spring and Daffodil Show, National Herbarium.

17, 18: Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Spring Show.

October

8, 9: Upwey & District Garden Club Annual Carnival of Flowers.

14, 15: Sth. Australian Geranium and Pelargonium Society Annual Show, Sefton Park, S.A.

15: Ringwood Garden Club, Uniting Church Hall, Cnr. Greenwood Avenue and Station Street.

22: Box Hill Horticultural Society Spring Show.

22: Iris Society of Australia (N.S.W. Region) Annual Show, St. John's Hall, Gordon.

29: St. James' Glen Iris Garden Club Show.

29: Geelong Garden Club Spring Festival, Matthew Flinders School Assembly Hall.

29, 30, 31, Nov. 1: St. Mark's Emerald Floral Festival.

29: Mooroopna & District Garden Club Flower Show.

29, 30, 31, Nov. 1: Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Rhododendron Festival.

November

2: Rose Society of Victoria Spring Show, Melbourne Town Hall.

5: Cheltenham Garden Club Spring Show.

12: Spring Show, Bendigo Horticultural Society.

Buying Guide

Announcement under this heading — 10 cents per word.

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Fuchsias: Dandenong Nurseries (E. C. Smith), 20 Maurice Street, Dandenong, Victoria, 3175, phone 792 3350, for Fuchsias, Geraniums and Pelargoniums — Wholesale and Retail. Catalogues available. Inspection invited during season.

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A GOOD BEGINNING . . .

Six months have passed since these pages became the avenue of information for the Royal Horticultural Society Council, and it is with some pleasure that we make these comments.

The Secretaries are to be congratulated upon their responses and much commended for the supply of news and information which has been received. Our Editor is sometimes at a loss to determine the best placement of all the material. There is also inference arising from chatting at meetings which tells us that knowledge of, and relationships between member Societies has been greatly improved by knowing more about each other.

Please continue your letters, and allow your Editorial Committee to make the following recommendations: Long lists of names are not very interesting reading to gardeners of far distant Societies who do not know the personalities concerned — such really belong to local publications — and we would rather place the emphasis on the winning exhibits. This applies to monthly competitions and shows, and in this matter, your Editor may in future need to edit letters and reports to make way for more gardening material. We have to remember the "Garden Lover" is a magazine for others than our Society members.

Our correspondence indicates that readers are most interested in news and details about PLANTS, either those they have seen at Shows or in other people's gardens. There is a desire to know about visits which your Club has made either to a Garden, a Show or a Nursery — remember, not merely that you went, but what did you see of horticultural interest? What effects, good or bad, has the long dry autumn season had upon gardens in your district? — do you have a project for children or the aged/disabled to participate in gardening? — are potted plants and hanging baskets the rage with your members? — what about fruit and vegetables? — do you have good classes for them? — does your Club favour flowers in general or do you have strong emphasis upon any group of plants which grow well in your area? — what DOES grow well in your area? Are you planning new developments or extending your particular Show?

Tell us, please, about all of these things in your letters, and any other horticultural news, so that it may be published and shared with others. - C. Biddle, Editorial Panel.

HOW I GROW CRYPTOSTYLIS
By Dick Datodi

This article has been taken from the very interesting Bulletin (March issue) of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group), but the only difficulty was — what is a Cryptostylis, apart from the fact that it is an Orchid? Happily, reference to Miss Jean Galbraith's "Wildflowers of Victoria" provided a common name for the unaware — Tongue Orchid.

Mr. Datodi tells us that the genus Cryptostylis has five species endemic to Australia. They vary from many other Australian terrestrial Orchids in that they have an extensive root system comprising fleshy rhizomes instead of tubers, and the erect lanceolate to ovate leaves remain above ground all the year round. One of the five species, C. hunterana, does not have leaves, and as with all saprophitic terrestrial Orchids, cultivation should not be attempted.

While observing plants in my shade house, Mr. Datodi writes, I have often seen the male ichneumon wasp (Lissopimpla semipunctata) pseudo-copulating with Cryptostylis flowers, to which they are sexually attracted. The attraction is presumably a scent which must be similar to the scent emitted by the female ichneumon wasp. The shape and colour of the flowers must also be a contributing factor. This fascinating form of pollination, unique to the Australian Cryptostylis species, has received world-wide attention.

Mr. Datodi reports that C. subulata, C. leptochila and C. ovata have all grown well, increased quickly and flowered profusely for him using the following cultural methods:

COMPOST is made up of four equal parts of rich dark mountain soil, leaf mould, peat moss and river gravel.

CONTAINER: A large plastic pot (about 8") is best, as this holds plenty of moisture and reduces the amount of soil moisture fluctuation. As all species develop quite an extensive root system, the larger pots help to accommodate this.

WATER: Plants are watered approximately once a week, making sure that the compost is always damp but not soggy. Good drainage is essential.

FERTILISERS: A small amount of blood and bone is added to the compost when potting, and the leaves are sprayed with a very weak solution of Aquasol approximately once a month.

LIGHT: All plants are grown in a shade house in approximately 50 per cent. shade. A fibreglass roof keeps out the rain and adds quite a bit of protection.

TEMPERATURE: Conditions in the area under discussion are quite severe in the winter, with temperatures in the shade house falling below 0 deg. C. during severe frosts. These low temperatures don't seem to cause any permanent damage, even with Western Australia's C. ovata tolerating the occasional freezing.

Mr. Datodi is sure good ventilation is important for the Cryptostylis species and plants should be placed in an area receiving plenty of air movement.

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The National Dahlia Society of Victoria held its first annual conference at Colac on April 23 last. The comment published in the N.D.S. quarterly magazine last year that, perhaps some time, somewhere, we could get together to air our Dahlia problems, invoked such a quick and enthusiastic response from Dahlia lovers, that it was decided to proceed with this at once.

With the enthusiasm of growers in the country in our minds, the N.D.S. decided to hold the Conference annually in country areas, and, at the invitation of Andy McKay, Colac was selected as our first venue.

Andy and Jan, assisted by the Commercial Motel and the people of Colac, organised the function to perfection, and we are grateful for their efforts to make this a memorable occasion for the one hundred and forty Dahlia enthusiasts present.

Among our participants were a contingent of eight from Tasmania, nine from South Australia, and two from New South Wales, and also in our interested audience were Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, President of the Fellows Group of the R.H.S.V. and his wife. The visitors were warmly welcomed by our President, Mr. Bob Rowarth, and the Conference was officially opened by the Mayoress of Colac, Mrs. Kelly.

Guest speakers were Col McGregor and Bob Rowarth, of Victoria, Charlie Smith, of Tasmania, Dan Craig, of New South Wales, and Gaynor Parker, fo South Australia. A Conference dinner was held in the evening, and overseas films were shown and lectures continued until 11.30 p.m.

Next day, a barbecue lunch was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. McKay, where hospitality was again magnificent and ninety people were present. A very enjoyable day was spent discussing Dahlias, renewing old friendships and making new ones in the atmosphere of good companionship which seems to emanate from horticultural people wherever they meet.

It was provisionally decided that next year's conference would be held in the Gippsland centre, Traralgon.

THE ROSE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

Both the Open Day at the Brundrett Nursery and the Society's 77th Autumn Show in the Melbourne Town Hall on April 6 were most successful, with record attendances which resulted in a substantial sum to be donated to the Royal Children's Hospital.

The Show was opened officially by the Lady Mayoress with a near record crowd in attendance. The Roses on display were of a very high standard, and the floral arrangements created a great deal of interest.

The Best Rose in the Show was a beautiful bloom of Red Queen staged by Mr. A. L. Brown, of Warrnambool. The Country Championship for "9 Roses Distinct" was again won by Mr. Brown.

The Best Bunch was an attractive, well-arranged exhiibt of the dainty white "Pascali" by Mr. E. B. Pietsch, of Blackburn. The Best Australian Bunch, and the Best Australian Rose, Lady Vera, were won by Mr. R. W. Smith, of Mt. Eliza. The Best Rose in the Novice Class was the popular Peter Frankenfeld, staged by Mr. I. A. Aitken, of Blackburn.

In the Floral Art Section, Mrs. M. Coats, of Doncaster, won the Best Rose Arrangement, and Mrs. S. Ford, of Geelong, the Best Arrangement Special Class.

The Victorian Championship for "12 Roses Distinct" was won by Mr. R. W. Allender, of Preston, and the 4 Bunch Championship by Mr. E. B. Pietsch, of Blackburn. These two exhibits were outstanding, and the Roses high class.

SOWING HYPOGEAL LILIUM SEED

By Australian Lilium Society

There is not much to be done this month. Seed harvesting will have finished. It is a bit early to plant seed except imported seed. Slow growing seed (hypogeal), such as L. auratum and L. speciosum, can be germinated in glass screw-top jars or polythene bags filled with damp peat moss and kept in a warm place.

After about six weeks or so, the seed will be seen to have pushed out a white shoot wtih a small rudimentary bulb attached, about the size of a grain of wheat. At this stage, the jar is placed in the bottom of a refrigerator and left there for six to eight weeks. This gives a similar cycle of temperatures to the summer and winter seasons. It is then necessary to plant the tiny bulbs into a container, making sure that the seed, root and bulb are not damaged in any way. Within three to six months, tiny leaves will emerge, quickly growing into strong plants. Using this method, it is possible to shorten the long maturing period by twelve months. Trumpets and other epigeal seed should be sown in August either in seed boxes or direct into the ground.

The next meeting of the Australian Lilium Society will be held at St. John's Hall, 86 Clendon Road, Toorak, on Wednesday, June 22, when the speaker will be Mr. F. Keenan, whose topic will be "Gardening Experiences in China".

Information about the Society may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Young, 24 Halwyn Crescent, West Preston, Vic., 3072.

WANDERINGS OF A VERY AMATEUR GARDENER.

ENGLAND! On arrival at Tilbury Docks, full of bustle and noise, farewells to "shipboard friends", the usual promises to write, "good luck and have a wonderful visit"; through the Customs, superbly polite, with further good wishes for a happy holiday.

We were met by friends from Kent, and after gathering our luggage, boarded a ferry to cross the river to Gravesend — such a depressing name for a rather picturesque village — and off we went down country lanes to Shoine. As if to say "welcome", it was a beautiful mild spring day, and after greetings were exchanged, I hurried outdoors down the first lane lined with flowering Hawthorn hedges, pink and white, and into a wood copse ablaze with Bluebells and Primroses, and the green grass that only England can produce. Picking Bluebells and Primroses, inhaling their perfume, nibbling at Hawthorn hedge leaves (as a child, we called them bread and cheese leaves) — at last, after many years away, I was "home".

Our friends at Shoine ran a small mixed farm, with a lovely thatched roof cottage, the bedrooms furnished with genuine four posted beds complete with canopies, very regal indeed. We stayed with them for two wonderful weeks, visiting Bath, Tunbridge Wells, Rochester (on Market Day), and a most quaint old world village called Chilham. I will endeavour to describe this place, as I considered it a highlight.

Driving along an avenue of Copper Beeches and Chestnut trees, we turned off the main road and into a circle of houses and shops which were like a scene from a Dickens tale. All the cottages had thatched roofs, the pavements cobble stoned, the shop windows with bubbled glass, and window boxes everywhere filled with a glorious display of Geraniums — the whole village out of another world.

We paid a visit to Queen Elizabeth's style from which she saw the Armada sail. It was stated she said, "My poor fleet." Considering the uneven climb over rough paths, the locals say she said "My poor feet". I must agree wtih the latter. Two days later — London.

So much has been written about, to me, the most wonderful city in the world, that it would be presumptuous on my part to enlarge on this matter. However, I must mention some of the outstanding features which come to mind. Firstly, the tremendous use of window boxes, all filled with many varieties of plants, flowers, herbs, and even Tomatoes. Lots of these boxes we viewed from the top of a double-decker bus on our many rides around city and suburbs.

A visit to Hampton Court Palace gave us many hours of pleasure — the gardens were so lovely, the trimmed Yew trees in so many fantastic shapes, the maze, the Grape Arbor showing promise of luscious black grapes, the wonderful Rose Garden — only the English Roses have such perfume. A bus trip to Box Hill, through avenues of Copper and multi-coloured Beeches, the Chestnut trees, the Linden and Larch trees, and what a superb view from the top of the hill! Once again, the green so intense.

Another visit was a stroll through Hyde Park with trees, hundreds of years old, and on through Kensington Gardens to pay a visit to Peter Pan's statue. The weather behaved perfectly; we had no rain for over six months.

Everyone raved so much about Chelsea Flower Show that I know it will meet with frowns of disapproval when I say I was disappointed. To me, it was overcrowded, too massed. Admittedly the exhibits and colour were beautiful, but personally I fell in love with Kew Gardens, the glass-houses, the lawns, the trees and flower beds. I don't think I can ever forget such beauty. We, at that stage, were living within five minutes' walk of the garden gates. From our window, we could see the tip of the Wistaria Walk.

Our next "long" trip was to Yorkshire, my home county. On arrival at Leeds, and on walking out of the station facing Town Hall Square, there were thousands of Tulips of every hue in bloom. Even Holland could not have surpassed this wonderful sight. Then off to Ilkley Moor, my village — the moors ablaze with purple and white Heather, yellow Gorse and blue Bilberries.

After a long visit with friends and relations, and many trips around Yorkshire, we returned to London in time to see the Rhododendron Festival, and also Wimbledon Common ablaze with glorious colour and massive blooms. Lovely, lovely England!

We wintered in London, visiting theatres galore, and, of course, many Art Galleries.

Then "homeward bound" — back to dear old Aussie.

Many more sights could be written of, but let me not bore you. It has been so very nice sharing memories with you all. — Jay Morley.

WAVERLEY GARDEN CLUB FORMS A FUCHSIA GROUP.

There have been Fuchsias grown in gardens over the years, but there are Fuchsias and Fuchsias, and today many of the varieties are even more beautiful than those which we admired in the past. In recent years the Fuchsia has become more and more popular with gardeners, especially with the hanging basket varieties, and, in the last issue of this magazine, an article describing one grower's methods was reprinted by the courtesy of the Australian Fuchsia Society based in Adelaide, of which Mr. Ken McLister is a foundation member.

Now Mr. McLister is instrumental in forming a Fuchsia Group within the Waverley Garden Club which, it is believed, will be the first in Victoria, and possibly the second in Australia.

The Waverley Garden Club will, therefore, hold an inaugural meeting for the formation of such a group on Wednesday, June 22, in the Syndal Hall, Blackburn Road, Syndal, at 8 p.m. to add a Fuchsia Group to the other two very active groups of Floral Art and Bonsai. Members of the Waverley Garden Club can join the group, but interested visitors will be made welcome. The group will conduct lectures and workshop meetings to extend their knowledge in Fuchsia culture, and indications are that there are already some 50 people willing to attend.

ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Rose Society of Victoria will hold its annual Rose Pruning Demonstration at the Burnley Horticultural College, Swan Street, Burnley, on Saturday, June 4, commencing at 2 p.m. A number of expert Rose pruners in attendance will demonstrate the art of pruning all types of Roses, and answer questions on Rose growing.

Dr. A. S. Thomas, O.B.E., V.M.A., D.H.M., S.M.A., Past-President of the Rose Society, will give an interesting talk on Roses in the main hall of the College after the demonstrations. This is an excellent opportunity for Rose lovers to learn how to prune Roses correctly, and have an enjoyable afternoon in the gardens.

Refreshments will be available, provided by an auxiliary of the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital.

Entrance to the College grounds is at tram stop No. 18 in Swan Street, Burnley. Take the Wattle Park tram from Batman Avenue. Ample car parking is available.

The demonstration will be repeated at the Alister Clarke Memorial Rose Garden in the St. Kilda Gardens, Blessington Street, St. Kilda, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.

FELLOWS GROUP

All correspondence to be addressed to:
The Hon. Secretary,
P.O. Box 5000Y, G.P.O., Melbourne,
Victoria, 3001. Phone 288 6309.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE R.H.S.V. FELLOWS GROUP

The subscription rates are:

Fellows	$6.00
Restricted Fellows within 30 miles of the G.P.O.	$4.50
Restricted Fellows beyond 30 miles of the G.P.O.	$4.00
Associates	$2.50
Juniors	$1.50

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

THE GARDENER'S SHOW GUIDE: $2.70 posted.

THE NEW EDITION OF THE REGISTER AND CULTIVATION OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS is now available: $2.30 posted. SUPPLEMENT, 25 cents posted.

THE DAHLIA CLASSIFICATION BOOKLET: REVISED: 50 cents posted.

DAHLIA RINGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE at $3.50 posted.

APPLICATIOINS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS should be made to the Hon. Secretary as indicated.

MEETINGS

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING: Held on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) at 8 p.m. at the National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra (near the Shrine of Remembrance and the Royal Botanic Gardens).

At each monthly meeting, Mr. Alan Gardiner, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, will present shrubs and plants of interest.

A monthly competition is conducted, and the schedule for each month is published elsewhere in these notes.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 23, 1977. The speaker will be a member from the Australian Camellia Research Society who will, naturally, discuss Camellias.

JULY MEETING: Thursday, 28th.

SECTION MEETINGS

CAMELLIA SECTION (in conjunction with the Australian Camellia Research Society): NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 8, 1977, at St. John's Hall (large), Corner of Clendon and Toorak Roads, Toorak, at 8 p.m. Hybridising with Camellias — Mrs. E. McMinn, of Camellia Lodge. JULY MEETING: Wednesday, 13th.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SECTION: NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 22, 1977, at 8 p.m. at the National Herbarium. JULY MEETING: Wednesday, 27th.

DAHLIA SECTION: NO MEETINGS in June, July and August.

FLORAL ART SECTION: NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 6, 1977, at the Girl Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Stevens, of Ashburton Floral Art Group, will describe her work on bark paintings, and show some of her creations. JULY MEETING: Monday, 4th — Practical hints on exhibiting at shows by leading exhibitors.

INDOOR PLANT, ORCHID AND BONSAI SECTION: NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 14, 1977, at the National Herbarium. The speaker will be Mr. Peter Harrison, discussing hanging baskets or terrariums. Mrs. Peggy Kent will resume her discussion on seasonal work on bonsai, and the current competition for the various sections of Indoor Plants and Bonsai will also be continued. JULY MEETING: Tuesday, 12th. A talk and demonstration by Mrs. Peggy Kent and Mrs. Margo Brezny.

GENERAL COMMITTEE: Meets on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

CLASSES FOR COMPETITION AT THE JUNE MEETING

CLASS 1: Cut Flowers, 1 kind. Minimum 3 stems.

CLASS 2: Foliage, Flowering or Berrying Shrubs, 1 kind. Minimum 3 stems.

CLASS 3: 1 Specimen Bloom, Spike or Truss.

CLASS 4: Bits and Pieces (exhibits should not exceed 12" in height and 8" in width).

CLASS 5: 3 Specimen Blooms, 3 distinct kinds, 1 of each staged singly. Example: 1 Rose, 1 Gladioli, 1 Dahlia.

Special Classes

CLASS 6: 1 Camellia Bloom.

—V. Knight, Competition Manager.

PARKING!

Ever since our night meetings have been held at the National Herbarium, some of us have been parking on the Gardens side of the Dallas Brooks Drive which leads to Government House side entrance, happily believing the "No Standing at Any Time" notices could be ignored at night. This complacency has been shattered by a paragraph which appeared in the March Bulletin of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group).

"After our last meeting, two of our members met a police constable beside their car, and fortunately for them and the rest of us, let us all off with a warning. The reason for the "No Parking" signs is that, if the Governor wished to go out, he prefers to drive on the left-hand side of the road. As parking is permitted on the opposite side of the road, the Governor either doesn't mind driving on the wrong side of the road when returning home, or he goes back in through different gates!"

This has something of a Gilbertian flavour, probably appreciated by the gentleman most concerned, but, to be fair, the roadway is fairly narrow, and away from the Herbarium, is rather dark at night on the Gardens side. Security cannot be ignored, even if dangers seem completely unlikely — and the police are responsible.

SO DON'T SAY YOU WEREN'T WARNED!

A SUNDAY EXPERIMENT.

In an attempt to attract those people who are reluctant to attend night meetings, the Indoor Plant, Orchid and Bonsai Section of the Fellows Group arranged a special Sunday afternoon meeting at the National Herbarium with several short talks and a display of bonsai and indoor plants. About sixty people attended in response to an announcement in "The Herald" and seemed to appreciate both the talks and the opportunity to view the exhibits. The bonsai looked particularly well, as a number were in autumn colouring and the light from the windows really set them off — much better than night light. Mr. John Scott displayed

some unusual Begonias and spoke of their needs, Mrs. Peggy Kent discussed some bonsai of Chinese Elm, Mrs. Johnstone gave advice from her experience on Cymbidiums, and Mr. Vin Drew talked generally on some of the indoor plants on display.

The experiment was judged a success, and a repetition was decided upon for May 15, after which consideration will be given as to the possibility of providing further afternoons of displays and talks. — D.D.

DAHLIA NOTES.

There will be no meetings of the Dahlia Section of the Fellows Group during the months of June, July and August, but these notes will be issued each month to give a little advice on what to do in lifting and storing the tubers for the carry-over period before their planting for the next year's growing season which usually starts about the fourth week in November.

This year has been one of the dryest seasons I have known. We had a good downpour during the Easter period, but, apart from that, we have had very little rain for a period of three months, but I will say that we had a very good display of blooms at the Autumn Shows, although some of the entries were down on the previous years.

I have been told by some of the exhibitors that this would be their last season, but we will see when the entries close, they will be there, same as usual, perhaps not with a great number of entries but after the blue ribbons as usual. The younger generation does not seem to be interested in the exhibiting of Dahlias, but let us hope we will see new faces at our shows in the future. I was eighty-four last April, and still put up my share of exhibits and collect my number of prize cards, and at times, win the aggregate prize in the Dahlia Section, three points for a first and one point for a second prize.

Some of our exhibitors in the Dahlia Section are keen Chrysanthemum growers, and you could have met them in the main Chrysanthemum Show at the end of April. These notes have to be sent in at least five weeks before they appear in the magazine, so one has to look ahead, but I hope you appreciate any little error in regard to shows and so on.

Dahlias at the present time are dying back, and the sap from the laterals goes back and ripens the tubers so that they carry over better by letting them die back naturally. If you cut them back you are not doing them any good. So I advise you to refrain from cutting them back before lifting time.

Well, I will now conclude, hoping you have a good time lifting really good clumps of tubers this season. — A. J. Masters, Chairman, Dahlia Section.

APRIL CHRYSANTHEMUMS AT THE HERBARIUM

The last of the Autumn Shows staged by the Fellows Group was the Chrysanthemum Show at the end of April, which was also the venue of the final of the South African Floral Art Championship for which heats had been held previously in Perth, Sydney and Moorabbin, Melbourne. Sponsored by the South African Airways, the first prize was a generous trip to South Africa, and the winner was Mr. Reg Block, of Victoria. All the flowers used in the competition were natives of South Africa, with the exception of Chrysanthemums, which were permitted in compliment to the Chrysanthemum Show.

Mr. Block's winning exhibit was named "Kruger's Savage Beauty", which stood seven or eight feet high. It was backed on the wall by a black and white striped skin, with a matching skin at the base. The flowers were in red, orange and yellow tonings, creating a mood of barbaric splendour heightened by two china representatives of the cat family which led to some discussion by the uninitiated as to whether they were cheetahs or leopards — leopards winning. Five other exhibits were similarly vivid, and beautifully arranged, attracting much attention.

Mrs. David Churchill opened the show, remarking that she felt the Herbarium had never before contained such a glorious array of colour, for the Chrysanthemums in their many shades and overflowing into the entrance hall added to the gay scene.

In the special awards, the Australian Championship was won by Mr. Arthur Greaves, who was also awarded the National Chrysanthemum Society of England's Silver Medal (R.H.S.V. Open Championship) and the certificate that goes with it. Mr. Greaves also received the Gold Certificate of the Chrysanthemum Society of Victoria. The blooms which achieved these results were:

Aust. Championship: 3 Large Exhibition Chrysanthemums — Elizabeth Shoesmith, Cream Duke and Gigantic.

Three Medium Chrysanthemums: Shirley Fashion, Connie Mayhew.

Vase of Three Exhibition Incurved: Jane Shoesmith.

Vase of Three Reflexed Decorative: Stuart Shoesmith.

Vase of Three Intermediate Decorative: Sam Vinter.

R.H.S.V. Open Championship: This fine entry consisted of 12 Large Exhibition — 2 Cream Dukes, 6 Elizabeth Shoesmith, 3 Gigantic, 1 Jessie Habgood.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Sharpe received the R.H.S.V. Silver Medal for the Best Large Exhibition Chrysanthemum in the Show which was an outstanding bloom of Jessie Habgood, one of 12 put up for the R.H.S.V. Open Championship. This also won a Gold Certificate of the Chrysanthemum Society of Victoria.

The Autumn Queen Award was won by Mr. Arthur Greaves, and his exhibit consisted of:

Vase of Three Exhibition Incurved: Spencers Cottage.

Vase of Three Reflexed Decoratives: Stuart Shoesmith.

Vase of Three Intermediate Decorative: Sam Vinter.

The National Society of England's Bronze Medal for the Victorian Amateur Championship was won by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Sharpe, and the blooms which they showed were:

Three Large Exhibition: Bill Bye, Jessie Habgood, Elizabeth Shoesmith.

Three Medium Exhibition: Snowman, Connie Mayhew, Shirley Fashion.

Three Exhibition Incurved: Zeus, Severn, Heather James.

Three Decorative: Monkton, Fair Lady, Golden Gown.

The Lilian May Roeger Trophy which was won by Mr. McDiarmid also received a Blue Ribbon for the Best Vase of Decorative Chrysanthemums, while Mr. Graham Medley received a Blue Ribbon for the Best

Vase of Exhibition Incurved, with a fine entry of three Brett Williams. Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe staged the Best Vase of Spiders, with the variety Nightingale, one of the favourites of the floral art ladies. The Best Medium Exhibition was won by Mr. Bill Dearn with the variety Connie Mayhew.

Entries were received from Mr. J. Pinner, of Devonport, Tasmania, and Mr. Kinnersly, of Clunes, who had a fair amount of success. Mr. Pinner's entry came by air, unaccompanied, and did not travel well. The blooms were damaged in transit. Nevertheless, the best of those remaining won the R.H.S.V. Merit Certificate as runner-up to Mr. and Mrs. G. Sharpe for the best Large Exhibition Chrysanthemum.

The thanks of the Chrysanthemum Section must be extended to the judges, Mrs. Ritchie and Messrs. Bruce Furneaux, Arthur Evans, Bob Flower and Tony Woodhouse; also to the wonderful body of helpers who never fail to appear at the right moment when they are wanted. We should also not forget to acknowledge with gratitude the help received from the personnel of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Melbourne City Council throughout the period of the Autumn Shows.

FLORAL ART.

The judge for the Floral Art exhibits of the Show schedule was Mrs. N. Worth, to whom the section is indebted for her work. The items, together with the successful exhibitors, were:

GREEN AND WHITE ARRANGEMENT: Mrs. McEachern presented Lilian Roeger green-tinted and also white Chrysanthemums with green Cobaea in a tall brass vase. Mrs. Gail Gooden used a green succulent with white Sasanqua Camellias in a tall vase.

AUTUMN GLORY: Mrs. M. Johnstone arranged a collection of vividly coloured autumn flowers on a wooden platter, while Sq. Leader Purdie chose a three-legged green bowl to display Glory Vine and Yellow Chrysanthemums.

BOLD AS BRASS: Mrs. Paul combined Zinnias, Carnations and Chrysanthemums of rich colouring, while Mrs. Gail Gooden used leaves of two colours with Callistemon "nuts" painted as a highlight.

WEATHERED WOOD AND FLOWERS: Sq. Leader Purdie selected a tall piece of timber covered with lichen and used a plough disc to display yellow and green Gladioli, while Mrs. Bennett placed yellow Chrysanthemums in conjunction with a piece of driftwood.

GOING UP: Sq. Leader Purdie produced a modern arrangement with two pieces of Flax and three big white Chrysanthemums, while Mrs. McEachearn favoured a more traditional type.

OLD WORLD CHARM: Sq. Leader Purdie encased dainty pink and white flowers in a glass dome, while Mrs. Gail Gooden arranged dark red flowers in an older type brass vase associated with two brass figurines.

TWO DISTINCT MINIATURES: 1 FRESH, 1 DRY: Miss Helen Chalice was the winner.

LINE ARRANGEMENT OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS: First place was taken by Mrs. M. Johnstone and second by Mrs. Jan Sharpe.

POSY SUITABLE FOR HOSPITAL VASE: Winners in this item were Mrs. Medley, and second, Miss Helen Chalice.

Mrs. Jill Sommers, who was responsible for the staging of the South African Floral Art Championship, expressed her thanks to the Floral Art Group, who gracefully accepted the staging of some of their display in rather cramped conditions in the entrance hall.

NEWS FROM NEAR AND FAR.

ALBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

During Easter, the Albury Society "put down" a floral carpet measuring 25 feet by 14 feet in St. Matthew Parish Centre. The theme was a sword within a cross surmounted by a chapel doorway. The exercise took twenty-four members two and a half hours to complete. Flowers were supplied by members and the Albury Botanic Gardens. Comments on the work were most praiseworthy.

CAMPERDOWN GARDEN CLUB.

Our Annual Flower Show was held on November 12, 1976, and each year, it seems to be gaining in popularity both with exhibitors and interested visitors. There were classes of Roses, Iris, Cut Flower and Dried arrangements. The coveted Lafferty Cup, given for the Six Best Roses, was this year won by Lady Manifold, who for many years has been an exhibitor and supporter of our shows. The cup was presented by the Mayoress, Mrs. Wettenhall, at the official opening. She also presented the other trophies to winners. Mrs. M. Reed had the Champion Iris, with a very fine bloom. Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. W. Maher, of Warrnambool, for once again acting as judges for us.

During the year, we hold monthly competitions with points allotted, and in 1976 the aggregate winner in a very close competition was Mrs. Elsie McAlpine. For this fine achievement, the Royal Horticultural Society Medal was presented to Mrs. McAlpine at our annual break-up evening.

One of our members, Mrs. Alice Williams, last year offered to be responsible for the care of the garden beds arranged around the clock tower, which is one of the focal points in our town. As the plants grow, it will be a lovely display to complement our beautiful avenue of Elm trees which was planted over 100 years ago.

On February 8, our first meeting for the year was held — the annual meeting. Officer-bearers elected were: President, Mrs. Thelma Fitzwilliam; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. A. Williams and Miss P. Morrison; Secretary, Mrs. J. Pitcher; Treasurer, Mrs. May Hill; Competition Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy O'Neill; Press Correspondent, Mrs. Dorothy Willingham.

Our membership for the last year was 38, with an average attendance at meetings of 30. We invite any interested persons to attend our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month.

CHELTENHAM GARDEN CLUB.

Although not a record number, the display of 323 entries at the Cheltenham Garden Club's Autumn Show on April 2 made a spectacular event which was viewed by a large number of people, and indicates that considerable interest is shown in gardening activities in the district.

The stage of the Cheltenham Hall was decorated by members of the Floral Art Group and depicted Modern Type Floor Arrangements by Mesdames V. Singleton, N. Bailey, E. Young and I. Cottrill. Judges for the Show were Mr. R. Rowarth (Dahlias); Mr. J. Botterill (Cut Flowers), Mr.

F. Le Page (Vegetables), Mrs. J. Heathfield and Mrs. M. Walkinshaw (Floral Art). All judges expressed their pleasure at the standard achieved by the various exhibitors.

The Cheltenham Dahlia Championship Gold Ribbon for a display of nine blooms, a Blue Ribbon for container of 3 Dahlias 160 mm or under, and the National Dahlia Society Medal were all won by Mr. W. Waight, of Altona. The Dahlia over 160 mm Blue Ribbon was won by Mr. A. J. Masters, of Yarraville. Mr. Waight and Mr. Masters are respectively Secretary and Chairman of the Dahlia Section of the Fellows Group which always welcomes visitors.

Other prize-winners were Mr. C. Croft, of Mordialloc (Cut Flowers); Mrs. M. Bailey, of Ormond (Floral Art); Mr. G. Bury, of Cheltenham (Pot Plants); Mr. A. Borradale, of Mordialloc (Vegetable). The Val. Hocking Trophy (Rose) went to Mrs. Jacobs, of Parkdale; the A. T. Gellel Trophy (Rose) to Mrs. F. Radford, of Mentone; the R. Whatmough Trophy (Fruit) was won by Mrs. E. J. Brown, of Cheltenham. The Floral Art Intermediate Mrs. L. Dobbyn Trophy was won by Mrs. T. Cassidy, of Armadale; Novice V. I. Robertson Trophy by Mrs. G. Moxley, of Aspendale.

GEELONG GARDEN CLUB

The judges at Geelong Garden Club's Show were unanimous in their praise of the numerous quality blooms. Despite the trying weather of the previous week, the exhibitors had still managed to bench many outstanding entries. Foremost among these were Miss H. Prowse's blue ribbon winning Hydrangea blooms. Shadings through iridescent mauves and blues made these truly worthy prize winners.

It takes many quality entries to win an aggregate prize, and Mr. J. Pitchford's indoor potted plants were the deserving winners of this section. Congratulations must also go to Miss S. Lange for winning the vegetable aggregate for the second year in succession. Again this Show has proved most successful, and provides much enjoyment and satisfaction for the many folk who viewed it.

The Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Hall at the rear of the Church of Christ in Latrobe Terrace, and new members are always made very welcome.

The date for our Spring Floral Festival is October 29 in the Assembly Hall at Matthew Flinders Girls High School.

All enquiries re Club matters can be attended to by ringing the Secretary, Mrs. D. Long on Geelong 435 871.

MONTMORENCY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Autumn Flower Show held by Montmorency Horticultural Society on March 26 and 27 had a near record of entries. The entries in the Fruit and Vegetable Section were an all-time record, and these were all of excellent quality and very well presented. The Blue Ribbon for the Best Exhibit in this Section went to a very fine Triamble Pumpkin entered by Bert Masefield, of Panton Hills. Graeme Norton had the biggest Pumpkin, which also took second prize in the "Herald's" Garden Week Competition. He also won the "Biggest Tomato" item, with a Tomato weighing 879 grams.

The Pot Plant Section provided a very fine spectacle and the Blue Ribbon winner a 7 ft. high Begonia entered by Betty Gillard made a fine centrepiece.

Roses and Dahlias were superior to previous years, and the cut flowers were excellent. The two most spectacular exhibits were staged by Paul Ludwig in the F. G. Ratz Memorial Trophy and the Horticultural Display items. Kathy Mullany and Fiona Soutar won ribbons in their respective age groups for their fine work in Imaginary Creature items. A good Cookery Section and Floral Art completed a very fine Exhibition.

RED HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

March was a very busy month, starting with our Autumn Show. We had a successful day and an excellent attendance. Dahlia entries were less than usual, as on top of our prolonged drought, one of our regular exhibitors was taken ill, but the quality was good, and the pot plant section continues to grow.

Judges were Mr. Perc Trevaskis (Dahlias), Mr. Vin Drew (Pot Plants), Mrs. Nance Downard (Floral Art) and Mrs. Marie Snowball (Cut Flowers). We are grateful to them for their expert comment.

Mr. Charlie Crow was very happy to win the Blue Ribbon for the Champion Dahlia, as it is one raised by himself and called "Maybelle". Other trophy winners were Mrs. Marie Snowball (Floral Art); Mrs. Peg Sherwood (Cut Flowers and Pot Plant). At our March meeting, we saw slides of the winning entries, and heard the comments of judges and stewards.

We also spent some of our Show profits on crates of plants in pots, which we sell to members at cost, and give to those willing to grow plants to sell at the next Show.

Our Society also ran the Flower Section at the Red Hill Show on March 26. Our members again did very well. Mrs. Joy Pritchard won the pot plant award. Mr. A. Sherwood took off the Dahlia aggregate, and Mrs. Marjorie Clein won the floral art trophy. Mr. B. Smith won the Champion Dahlia ribbon, and we hope to have him as a member later.

ROCHESTER AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

The members of this Club conducted a very successful Autumn Show, when 623 entries were staged. The judges were Mrs. Johnstone, the Misses Edmonson and Dossiter, and Mr. Peter Slotegraaf. All commented on the high standard, and urged exhibitors to keep up the standard and interest.

Our guest for the afternoon was Mr. Stephen Ryan, of the television series "Gardenitis". He said he was pleasantly surprised when he entered the Hall to see such a magnificent display, which was very pleasing for all concerned with the staging of the Show.

Our "Citizen of the Year", Mr. Charles Wood, presented the trophies to winners at the evening session, which was well patronised. These went to Mrs. A. Wills (Cut Flowers), Mr. and Mrs. E. Brown, Echuca (Dahlias), Miss F. Amery (Novice Dahlia), Mr. L. Brown, Kerang (Champion Dahlia), Mrs. W. Ayson (Floral Art), Mrs. F. Weeks (Pot Plants), Mr. and Mrs. W. Arnold (Fruit), Mrs. W. Auld (Vegetable).

The Group entry was won by the Methodist Friendship Circle, with the Elmore United Church in second place. The winners of the Children's Section were Helen Wills, Carol Ives and Sandra Joyce. The Grand Aggregate went to Mr. and Mrs. E. Brown, of Echuca, and the Silver Medal award was won by Mrs. Benzely, of Lockington for the Best Exhibit in the Show.

SALE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Sale has been growing at a fast rate over recent years. With this increase in population, it seems certain that there are new residents with talents as yet unknown in our community.

Some years ago, two young women whose husbands were stationed at the R.A.A.F. base, East Sale, joined the Sale Horticultural Group and gave tremendous pleasure and help to our members. They had recently returned from Malaysia where they had studied floral art, attending classes for forms of this art as Ikebana including Moribana, Nageire, Shoka, etc. One of them had attended a judges' course. They gave so freely of their talents by demonstrating, judging and generally helping members to advance, that they became endeared to us all. After leaving this area, they sent back ideas for our show schedules. Thank you again, Yvonne and Clare.

If there should happen to be new residents who are qualified in any way horticulturally, we would greatly appreciate their help and interest in the Sale Horticultural Society. The meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Continuing Education Centre.

Anyone who is qualified in floral art, and is interested in tutoring day or evening classes, could contact Robyn Maddison at the Continuing Education Centre, 441 666.

One horticultural expert who recently arrived in this area has been "discovered" and is contributing in no small way with advice and help with his lecturing — the Rev. Percy Moore, of Maffra — and we are looking forward to meeting and hearing him in the near future at our meeting.

NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED

Box Hill Gardening News.
Geelong Garden Club Newsletter.
Vermont Horticultural Society and Garden Club Newsletter.
St. James' Glen Iris Garden News.
The Rhododendron (Australian Rhododendron Society).
Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group) Bulletin.

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WINTER GREENS TO PLANT NOW

Nothing adds zest to dinner on a cold winter night more than steaming vegetables fresh from your own garden. Victorian bedding plant growers have good supplies of Cabbage, Cauliflower, Beetroot and Lettuce available as seedlings at your supermarket or garden outlet for planting this autumn.

These bedding plant vegetables have been selected by the growers' association as ideal for cultivation now to provide late autumn and winter cooking vegetables for the family.

Growers recommend at this time, Climax Cabbage, Paleface Cauliflower, Melbourne Early Beetroot and for meal variety, Winterlake Lettuce. Climax is a large and uniform flat-headed Cabbage which matures about 13 weeks after the seedlings are transplanted about 60 cm apart.

Plant them in a well-fertilised, sunny, well-drained positon. Feed regularly with a good plant food, spray and dust often to discourage pests, keep well-watered and use a snail killer.

Every Victorian vegetable garden should grow Paleface Cauliflower this autumn as not only do their large white hearts make a delicious cooking vegetable but they keep particularly well in home freezers for many months.

Beetroot is an excellent home garden vegetable and will grow well in any well-prepared soil. It will hold well in the garden or can be cooked and kept for later use.

Growers recommend Melbourne Early Beetroot for planting in Victoria from April to July. Plant seedlings in fertilised soil 13 cm apart, water regularly and keep plants free of weeds.

OUR CHILDRENS CORNER

My Dear Sunflowers,

It is so pleasing that new Sunflowers continue to join up. Postie says he is pleased with the handwriting of all this month.

Well, here we are in June; Winter at last! So the colder it gets, the more vigorous and cheerful we will be; and then think during this month we will have the shortest day, and then the days will slowly get longer again. And don't forget, this is the time for planting deciduous trees, shrubs and berry bushes.

Please keep up the "penfriends" idea of writing to each other.

Meet me again on this page again next month.

Your skipping,
UNCLE DICK.

Dear Daniel, Kelvin and Benjamin,

Welcome all to Sunflower Corner and I hope we have many happy years writing to each other through our pages. As I see you are 10 years, 8 years and 6 years, I know you will all drop me a line from time to time and tell me about yourselves, pets, etc. Benjamin, you should have received your birthday seeds by now. —Kindest regards to all and thank Mum for writing for you, Uncle Dick.

Dear Uncle Dick,

During the holidays in December we had a few fires in our district, and we got some of our property burnt. We were lucky because the creek beside our house stopped it burning the house and garden. We have a large garden of trees, shrubs and flowers. Some Oak trees are 50 years old. We have a Weeping Elm near our back door which is nearly as old and just as beautiful.

I've forgotten the name you gave me and wonder if you still know. Tell Postie, Caroline received her seeds and put them in our new hot house but they looked better when we took them outside.

Yours sincerely, Anita Aitken, Glenthompson, 3293.

[Dear Anita, My, oh my, I was pleased to hear your property didn't get burnt. Bushfires are nasty, aren't they? Now all the grass is nice and green and the bulbs popping into bloom and the hot days almost forgotten. I think you will find the birthday seeds do much better in the open garden and make a pretty show of flowers. Your pen name is "Holly," my dear. — Love, from Uncle Dick.]

Dear Uncle Dick,

I am sorry I haven't written for a while. Can you please send me my birthday seeds as I didn't get them. My birthday is on the 5th of December.

In my garden I have got some pink Alyssum as well as white. I have also got a Polygonum orientale which grows 6 ft. tall. It has got tiny little pink flowers that grow in little clusters. As it grew up I took off the leaves that grew on the stem so that now it is shaped sort of like a small

tree. It is related to Wire Weed which completely crawls along the ground.

About a month ago my Sunday School had a picnic. There were lots of races and hay rides. Even a chook race. In a chook race you chase after a bantam hen or rooster until someone in your group catches it. Michael (my little brother), caught a bantam hen. Later, one of our neighbours gave us a bantam rooster. We won't be expecting any chickens for a while for Monty (the rooster) is still young. Yesterday I took them some weeds. As soon as I started walking away they jumped down from their perch and started scrabbling all the weeds off the tin I had put them on.

A few nights ago we went to a party. I played with a girl from West Wyalong. She said that her family had 14 cats and four dogs, while my family have only got two cats and two dogs.

Last Friday we went to a flower show. There were some huge Chrysanthemums there grown by Mr. Dinney. There were also some beautiful dinner table arrangements and Mother's Day arrangements, too. A girl who put in an Easter Bunny as a novelty object won a sewing case as a trophy prize.

I am sorry I have only got one riddle but I am out of them.

Q.: What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?

A.: You're too young to smoke.

— Catherine Howard, 'Vida,' Ariah Park, New South Wales, 2684.

[My dear Catherine, Firstly I must apologise to you for not receiving your seeds. I checked with Mrs. Uncle Dick and Postie and they were sent off but we won't worry now. Postie has sent you a "special" lot to make up. How are the bantams? I remember when I was young I had bantams, too, and we used to get lots of chickens from them. Fancy your friend having all those cats. I bet they don't have any mice. Did you put any entries in the flower show? If I remember correctly, I think you did last year. Well, my dear, I hope to hear from you soon with all your latest doing; and good luck with the seeds. — Love, Uncle Dick.]

Dear Michael,

Thank you so much for your drawing. Mrs. Uncle Dick has put it up on the wall of my office and it looks great. Thank Mum for writing for you, please, won't you? I only wish I lived near you and I could come and see your garden and I would love to have some of your damper and potatoes cooked in the coals. What a lucky family you are. Keep on enjoying yourselves

All the best to Mum and the rest of the family. Your old pal, Uncle Dick.

P.S.: Congratulations on winning the chicken race.

Dear Uncle Dick,

Thank you for the seeds you sent me. I've planted them in a tray. When they are up I will transplant them in my own garden. The autumn trees around our place are beautiful.

On the 2nd of April (which is Saturday) my friend, Lynda Carson slept with our family, and so she was at my place on Sunday for my birthday. We had fun and we made lemonade. It was beautiful. For my birthday I got a bike and a Abba book plus some other things.

Here are some riddles:

Q.: What can you spy in the middle of the sea?

A.: The letter "e".

:: :: ::

Q.: What part of the car kills the most people?

A.: The nut behind the wheel.

:: :: ::

Q.: How can you catch a squirrell?

A.: Climb up a tree and act like a nut.

Lots of love, from Roslyn Marriner, Box 267, Colac, Victoria, 3250.

P.S. Could I please have a Sunflower name?

[Dear Roslyn, Well, well, how is the bike riding going? You were a lucky girl, weren't you? Please be careful on the roads won't you, I don't want any of my "Sunflowers"

getting in accidents. What about "Delphinium" for your Sunflower name? —Love for now, Uncle Dick.]

Dear Uncle Dick,

How are you? I am sorry that I have not written to you for a long time, but I have been reading Garden Lover every month.

Here are some riddles:

Q.: Did you hear the story of the two holes in the ground?

A.: Well, well.

:: :: ::

Q.: Why was the farmer cross?

A.: Because someone had trod on his corn.

Q.: What do you do when you have got a toothache?

A.: Stick your head through a window and the panes gone.

:: :: ::

If you don't know the answer to this one, say I give up:

Q.: What would a donkey do if there was a bale of hay on one side of the river and the donkey on the other side?

A.: And so did the donkey.

:: :: ::

We have had some rain here and we got about 110 points. In my garden I have some beautiful Marigolds but they are all falling down even though I did tie them up. They have plenty of flowers on them but after the frost I will plant some winter flowers from your packet.

Nearly every morning we go with Daddy to feed the cows and then feed the sheep with Pop.

A few nights ago we went to a tin kettling and played with the children.

Afew month's ago we went to a Sunday School picnic. Near the end of the day we have chicken races. Michael won his group's chook. It was a bantam hen. About two weeks ago we brought a bantam rooster we called them Mary and Monty.

Michael sends his love.

Love from Browyn Howard (Blue Forget-Me-Not), 'Vida', Ariah Park, 2684.

[My dear Browyn, So nice to hear from you again, my dear. Postie and I did enjoy your riddles. You must have great fun on the farm with all the animals, etc. It is nice to see you all help Mum, Dad and Pops, too. The Sunday School picnic must have been a lot of fun, I wish I could have joined in that chicken race. By now flowers will be rather scarce both in your garden and in the fields but then it won't be long before spring and all the new shoots spring to life again. Keep up all your good times, Bronwyn, and write whenever you have time, I always enjoy all your letters. — Love always, Uncle Dick.]

Dear Uncle Dick,

Hello, my name is Mark Payne and I will be seven on the 14th of May. I am in Grade 2 at school and I like to read your page in Mum's gardening book. I hope I can join your club. I like to help Mum in the garden. I have a dog named Poochie, she is black and she is a good friend.

Bye for now, Mark Payne, 50 Birnam Street, Beaudesert, 4285.

[Welcome, Mark, Great to hear you have decided to join our "Corner." I hope your seeds arrived alright. Put them in when the days are warmer after winter and tell Poochie not to dig them up, won't you? Your pen name will be "Stock." — Happy days from your pal, Uncle Dick.]

Dear Uncle Dick,

How are you? Could I become a member of your club. My birthday is on the 28th September and I will be 12. My favourite flowers are Roses, mainly Peace, Superstar and Lorraine Lee, Creeping Rose. I have two gardens and I might be getting a garden box also I am getting a horse.

Yours sincerely, Maree Stephenson.

[Dear Maree, My, I have had a busy morning and how I did enjoy it, entering all my new little friends in the birthday book. Mrs. Uncle Dick said she has chosen "Peace Rose" as your pen name. I think that's great, don't you? Let me know if you get the garden box and the horse, too. Love for now and write again soon. — Love Uncle Dick.]

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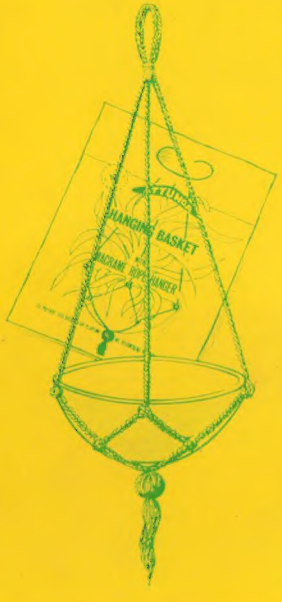

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